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page 3

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pages 16 - 19, 26



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to Streisand hasn't been easy.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 51 • 18 December 1997

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Supervisor Tom Ammiano

Renters with AIDS saved from eviction

by Mark Mardon

San Francisco apartment renters living with HIV and AIDS, along with people over 60, can now rest a little easier in their homes, at least until mid-1999. On Monday, December 15, the Board of Supervisors granted them temporary relief from the heartache of "owner move-in evictions."

The supervisors' 8-0 vote in favor of elderly and critically ill renters (five members abstained from voting) temporarily closes a loophole in San Francisco's rent ordinance that has allowed landlords to toss out any tenant they want to make room for themselves.

Increasingly in recent years, as the city's rental market has tightened (the vacancy rate has plummeted to below one percent), building owners have used the escape hatch to rid themselves of long-term, low-rent tenants. All they've had to do was move themselves or relatives into the vacated space, live there for a year to fulfill the loophole's minimum requirements, then turn around and re-rent the space to a new tenant at a much higher rate.

The supervisors' unanimous vote puts into place an 18-month moratorium on such owner move-in evictions of the elderly and critically ill. It exempts single-family houses and buildings whose landlords are 60 or older.

"Affordable housing is often out of reach to many," Supervisor Tom Ammiano told the noisy crowd packed into the supervisors' meeting room. He said he wanted to make sure se-

'hood lights

Passersby love to stop at the corner of Castro and Market to gape at this building, which has donned its gay apparel for the season. Residents used thousands of lights to create a three-story rainbow flag, plus Santa's flight over the Golden Gate Bridge.



John Phillips, Oakland

Yee wants PWA housing publicly identified

by Cynthia Laird

A proposal by San Francisco Supervisor Leland Yee to require posting pre-approval notices on city-funded projects—including HIV/AIDS housing developments—was shot down by the board's Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee December 4. After a lengthy hearing, the legislation was tabled, meaning it did not come out of committee and will not be heard by the full board. Some supporters of the proposal have begun an effort to put it on the ballot, however, and Yee told the B.A.R. on

Tuesday, December 16 that if that happens, he will support it.

Opponents at the hearing criticized it as a discriminatory measure that would affect those who benefit most from publicly-funded projects such as AIDS/HIV housing, mental health, and substance abuse programs. They also argued that notice requirements already exist for such projects.

The legislation called for placing 30-inch by 30-inch signs inside the windows of the house or building on the affected property, containing the identification of the "officer, department, board, or commission that will

page 27 ►



Supervisor Leland Yee

Cynthia Laird

ACLJ vs. SF DP law II: the sequel

Ohio plaintiff firm founded on 'Christian principles'

by Cynthia Laird

The Pat Robertson-backed American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) has filed the third federal lawsuit challenging San Francisco's landmark domestic partner benefit law, this time on behalf of an Ohio-based company that court documents state "was founded on and tries to adhere to Christian Biblical principles." The civil lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court Tuesday, December 9. U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken has not yet issued a ruling on an ear-

lier lawsuit filed by the Air Transport Association (ATA); that case, heard in federal court October 10, also challenges the legality of the domestic partner benefit law.

A notice of related case has been filed, so the new lawsuit has gone to Wilken. Dennis Aftergut, chief assistant city attorney, told the B.A.R. that the city will file an answer to the complaint and that the new case will most likely wait until Wilken has ruled on the ATA lawsuit.

Under the city's law, firms that contract with the city must provide benefits to do-

page 27 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	24
BAR Talk	52
Classifieds	27
GLAAD	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	50
Obituaries	24
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	48
Out There	35
Personals	55
Sapphistication	10
Sports Complex	26

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Ombudsperson concept approved by CARE Council

by Cynthia Laird

Members of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council overwhelmingly supported the concept of an ombudsperson for People with AIDS on Monday, December 15, when they voted 21-1 in favor of the idea. The specifics of the position won't be hammered out until next month, when councilmembers hold a retreat Saturday, January 10; the matter is expected to be voted on by the full council Monday, January 26.

The ombudsperson concept has been pushed by AIDS activists and groups such as the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club and ACT UP/Golden Gate. The ombudsperson office would "assist consumers of CARE-funded services with information on access to services and processing of their complaints and/or grievances," according to the resolution approved Monday. If approved, funds for the position would most likely come out of the "planning council support" line item of the city's Ryan White CARE Act budget.

Federal CARE funds are allocated to just about all of the city's AIDS/HIV service organizations.

Councilmember Tony Leone presented the concept at Monday's meeting, and said the council's PWA Caucus would be looking at the level of need out there. The lone opposing vote came from Marianna Balquiedra.

Jim Illig, of Project Open Hand and who represents the HIV Contractors Association,

of the AIDS Office, said he had checked with the City Attorney's Office, and it was determined that if a matter voted on by the council affects all agencies, there is no conflict; the conflict of interest provisions come into play if a matter impacts a particular individual or agency represented on the council, Nickens said.

It was Petrelis's restriction of access to services offered by the HIV Services Partnership (San

The ombudsperson office would assist consumers of CARE-funded services with information on access to services and processing of their complaints and grievances.

voiced objection to the proposal, saying he thinks it will be confusing for clients. "Every agency has grievance procedures. The AIDS Office made sure every agency has the same form," Illig said, adding he would rather see the money spent for an ombudsperson go to complete a needs assessment.

Before the vote, AIDS activist Michael Petrelis asked whether councilmembers who work for AIDS service organizations would have a conflict of interest voting on the ombudsperson position. Norm Nickens, assistant director

Francisco AIDS Foundation, AIDS Health Project, and Shanti) that led to calls for the ombudsperson position. In September, Petrelis was notified by letter that his access to services was being restricted, and he was never given an opportunity to appear before partnership administrators to have any kind of hearing prior to being cut off from services. After much time trying to find an advocate, Petrelis and representatives of the partnership agreed to mediation with the Human Rights Commission. ▼

Suspect used syringe in SF robberies, cops say

United Press International

A San Francisco man is being held without bail in connection with two holdups in which he's suspected of threatening victims with a syringe possibly filled with HIV-infected blood.

Police say 33-year-old Steven Pollack has been charged with robbery and attempted robbery, and could be charged with attempted murder if the blood in the syringe was infected with the virus.

Pollack's attorney has entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Police say a suspect matching Pollack's description approached the counter of the Nob Hill adult

theater on the night of Friday, December 12, pulled a ski mask over his face, and held out a syringe.

The police report says the man made several jabbing motions at the clerk, telling him the syringe was filled with HIV.

The report says he told the clerk, "I'm sorry, this is a robbery."

On Sunday night, police say the man entered a California Street bar, held a hypodermic needle to a patron's throat, and threatened to inject her.

The patron tried to push the needle away, and her companions subdued the suspect and held him for police.

The report says Pollack later confessed that he had robbed the adult theater clerk of \$230. ▼

Corrections

In last week's article, "Cash-strapped AEF appeals to public for funding ideas," comments made by current SF Leather Daddy Patrick Batt were erroneously attributed to former SF Leather Daddy Philip Turner.

In the article, "Gay man accuses mall manager of anti-gay slur," it was incorrectly stated in the beginning of the story that Stonestown Galleria's general manager made the remark. Ron Willer, the general manager, told the Bay Area Reporter that the matter "will be handled internally."

The B.A.R. regrets the errors, blames them on a combination of human error and fortified eggnog, and apologizes to all concerned.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AEF, Tenderloin Tessie serving up holiday feasts

Food, gift donations, volunteers needed

by Cynthia Laird

Christmas Eve will be brighter for thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS, their families, and friends; it will be brighter, too, for those who are homeless or living on an extremely limited income, as at least two community groups are hosting holiday dinners Wednesday, December 24 in San Francisco. The day also promises to be brighter for the hundreds of volunteers who will be giving their time to help people.

Tenth AEF dinner

The AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) is having its 10th PWA Christmas Eve Dinner in the Green Room (second floor) at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Last year's event provided over 1,400 people with a traditional holiday meal; more than 200 volunteers gave their time serving and contributing to the event. Diners were treated to some of the city's best entertainers; Santa Claus and helpers showed up and posed for photographs before handing out gifts to everyone. This year's event is expected to be similar.

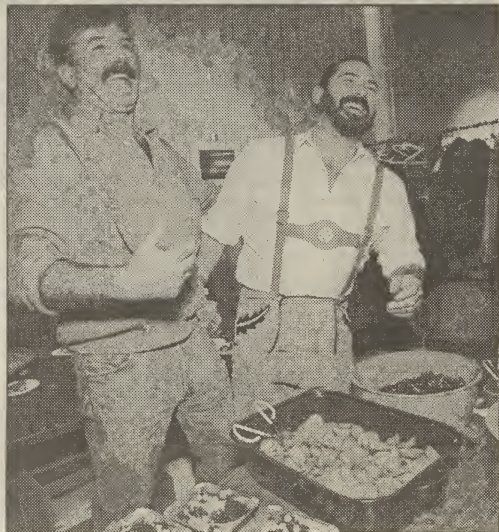
Neil Figurelli, of AEF's dinner committee, said volunteers are desperately needed for several three-hour shifts; people are needed to work the morning and evening set-up and clean-up shifts, in addition to serving guests. If people aren't able to help on Wednesday, they could help pick up items on Tuesday, December 23.

With the dinner only days away, Figurelli said AEF is still in need of several items, in addition to volunteers. Those include: 2,000 candy canes; Polaroid 600 film; walkie-talkies; desserts; and children's toys.

If you can make a donation or want to volunteer, call Figurelli at (415) 552-7955 or Cindy Roberts at (415) 282-0130.

Mission men need help, too

The Dolores Housing Program (DHP) is the only emergency food and shelter facility that serves men in the Mission Dis-



Culinary cornucopia: Tenderloin Tessie's Thanksgiving dinner was a resounding success. Call 621-1149 to donate to the Christmas Eve event.

trict, and they could use help this holiday season, too, said David Rodriguez, director. Over 2,000 people a year, many of them working poor, are provided with a safe, dignified, and culturally appropriate environment, food, medical and case management, and other services offered by the program, which is among those run by Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS).

Rodriguez said the need has increased for DHP's services. "Last year, we turned away 100 people a month due to lack of space; this year, we are turning away almost twice as many, and the number is growing at an alarming rate."

Items needed for Christmas are: turkeys and hams; Christmas decorations; and 100 personal bags, each containing deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, shampoo, soap, hand lotion, toothpaste, handkerchiefs, and socks.

If you can make a donation, call DSCS at (415) 282-6209.

Crunch time for Tenderloin Tessie

They just served thousands of

meals on Thanksgiving, but that won't stop the folks at Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners from a repeat performance on Christmas Eve. A.L. Allen, secretary of the group, said the holiday meals have been held for over 23 years, with the goal being to provide a well-balanced meal for seniors, the handicapped, the homeless, and the poor. Everyone is welcome. Dinner will be served between 1 and 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary. Volunteers are needed, said Allen.

Tenderloin Tessie relies on donations of food, money, time, and energy provided by local businesses and community members. Allen said the group's volume has increased, and this year they have served over 2,000 dinners at the Thanksgiving and Easter events. Food items would be greatly appreciated, and include: turkeys or hams; stuffing; gravy; canned vegetables; cranberry sauce; potatoes; yams; fresh veggies for salad; dressings; desserts of all types, coffee, tea, fruit punch; and paper products.

If you can make a donation or volunteer, call Allen at (415) 621-1169. ▼

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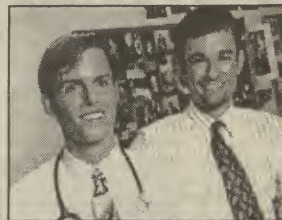
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Lawsuit charges Circuit City ain't good guys for gays

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man has filed a sexual harassment suit in Sonoma County Superior Court, charging that he was retaliated against after he complained of sexual harassment and anti-gay job bias by store workers at the Santa Rosa, California Circuit City Superstore.

The November 26 complaint, filed on behalf of defendant Saint Clair Adams by attorney Angela Alioto, says that the work environment at the site was so hostile and stressful that he was forced to leave his job in November 1996 and go on disability.

"My client has suffered serious emotional damage," Alioto told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And over the last eight months, he has received a lot of medical care to cope with what happened to him."

Among the incidents cited by Adams, a sales counselor in the

don Mears referred to another worker at the site as "a fag," and said that homosexuality "is sick and disgusting," and that he wouldn't care if all gay people were dead.

Three months later, Mears commented to Adams that he would enjoy playing with Mears' testicles, and asked if he would like to do so.

In another incident detailed in the complaint, when Adams entered the Superstore with two female co-workers, Mears looked up from his work and said, "Good morning, ladies."

Also, customer service manager Garret Belched told Adams in front of six employees that "we are all going to have a party, and everybody is coming in your mouth." Belched was later fired.

Remedial action

Adams complained about the ongoing harassment to the store's general manager Geoff Collins, but repeated pleas were allegedly

should go in and hold his hand if you are concerned about him."

Finally, in November 1996, Collins approached Adams and asked him about the incidents. After Adams gave examples, Collins demanded the names of the employees and said they would be kept confidential. But, the suit alleges, shortly after Adams identified the harassing workers to Collins, the confidentiality was breached, and a co-worker approached him to see if he had made it onto Adams's "hit list."

When Adams asked what he meant, the worker said, "Everyone knows you have a list."

According to the suit, "Thereafter, plaintiff was generally ignored, avoided and leered at by his colleagues when he was at work."

Adams went on stress disability leave at the end of November 1996 following the shunning.

After the arrival of the human resources agent, on January 10,

Workers' comments during the training included, "My manager is a fag, all fags are AIDS carriers," and, "My manager is a walking AIDS factory."

small office/home office department of the store, are comments made by Circuit City workers during a regional sales training. One of the comments from a fellow trainee was that a heterosexual man was justified in killing a gay man, and that the gay man got what he deserved, because the victim had a crush on the murderer.

Other workers' comments during the training included, "My manager is a fag, and all fags are AIDS carriers," and, "My manager is a walking AIDS factory."

Adams complained to the class instructor and asked him to refer to company policies prohibiting anti-gay and sexual comments and harassment, but he was ignored.

When he returned to the Santa Rosa Superstore, Adams told Derrick Iman, a supervisor, about the incidents but was told "it's a tough world out there" and was ordered to drop the issue.

According to Adams' lawsuit, in July 1996 sales counselor Bran-

ignored, and it took the store until November 22, 1996 to take remedial action, at which time the corporation sent a human resources agent to interview workers about the complaint.

Prior to the arrival of the human resources agent, Adams had complained to his direct supervisor Scott Stevens about the harassment, but was told that Stevens didn't want to hear about it. Then, according to the lawsuit, Stevens became a participant in the incidents. When Stevens was discussing the store's hair-length policy, he allegedly pulled out a pair of small scissors and told Adams that "we could cut off your dick, and no one would notice."

In another incident, when a fellow employee was trying to locate Adams and asked the supervisor where he was, Stevens replied, "How the fuck am I supposed to know? Maybe he is in the bathroom. I don't know what he's doing in there, but maybe you

1997, Mears was given a "record of Corrective Action" for violating the company's policies. Two days later, another sales counselor was given a similar reprimand for making other harassing comments to Adams.

Dark ages

Although a jury trial has been demanded, the case has been sent first to arbitration, Alioto told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

She said the case was an example of the sort of discrimination faced by lesbian and gay workers, and that Circuit City was completely insensitive to the damage caused to workers by such abuse.

"It's incredible that in 1997, a company like Circuit City could still be living in the Dark Ages," she said.

Larry Hosey, the attorney for the Circuit City corporation headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, could not be reached for comment at B.A.R. press time about the lawsuit. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Throne for a loop



Club Throne ("Where Kings Cum") debuted on Dec. 13 at the Embassy Club on Polk Street. Lu Read and Annie Toone produced the sterling drag king event, which featured the under-appreciated talents of Fudgie Frottage and Remy Martin, Elvis Herselvis, The Dodge Brothers, Cockatelia, Duke, Vinnie and Mario Testosteroni, etc. Pictured here are Vinnie and Mario Testosteroni enjoying a young lovely.

Coletti sentenced

by Dennis Conkin

Former Imperial Court of San Francisco Emperor XVII Jerry Coletti was sentenced in U.S. District Court on Wednesday, December 10 to ten months in federal custody, three years supervised probation including drug testing, and restitution of \$125,697 in funds.

Coletti's sentence was a part of an arrangement related to his September guilty plea to two felony counts of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and mail fraud charges, in connection with a tax fraud scheme whose victims were primarily men with HIV infection, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nandor Vadis.

"He got what we agreed on," Vadis told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Vadis said that Coletti was no longer in custody because he received credit for time served since his March 1997 arrest on the charges.

Coletti's attorney, United States Assistant Federal Public Defender Larry Kuypers, was not available for comment on the sentence.

Coletti was arrested on a 30-count federal indictment last March following a nearly three-year joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Service, the U.S. Postal Service, and the California Franchise Tax Board.



Jerry Coletti

According to the federal indictment, Coletti obtained and used the Social Security numbers of several HIV-positive men to file for and obtain bogus federal and state tax refunds.

The refunds were issued in the names of the men Coletti used, but sent to his home address.

Coletti obtained access to some of the Social Security numbers through the course of his ownership of the former Galleon Restaurant, and at other businesses where he had worked as a bookkeeper.

The Galleon property was seized along with Coletti's residence in the early 1990s by a real estate management firm, and sold after Coletti was sued in San Fran-

cisco Superior Court for embezzling an estimated \$2.5 million in assets through dummy invoices, altered checks, and other methods, while serving as the firm's bookkeeper.

Well-known lesbian and gay entertainment promoter Audrey Joseph, who operates Fantastic Realities, pleaded guilty last February to a single federal felony count of conspiracy to defraud the federal government in connection with the tax fraud case. She received probation.

Joseph was duped into depositing 13 out of 30 bogus tax checks Coletti received into her business checking account, and then writing checks to Coletti and others on the funds, according to her attorney Nanci Clarence.

Coletti worked for Joseph from January 1993 through July 1993, according to the federal indictment.

Coletti told Joseph that the banking arrangement would prevent the men from losing AIDS-related disability benefits because their incomes were too high, and she believed the funds were being distributed by Coletti to the people the checks were made out to, Clarence said.

Although not available for comment, Kuypers has previously strongly objected to Clarence's characterization of Joseph's role in the affair, and has also been highly critical of *Bay Area Reporter* news reports about Coletti's legal difficulties. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Oh, Yee of little sense

Of all the harebrained schemes to come out of City Hall – and there have been enough to fill an encyclopedia over the years – it's hard to imagine one worse than Supervisor Leland Yee's recent proposal to notify residents when people with AIDS move into the neighborhood. We're still upset that "Megan's Law" notifies people that "offenders" who have committed consensual sodomy live in their midst, but Yee's proposal is so much worse it leaves sensible people desperately searching for appropriate words of denunciation.

Yee is callously and cynically pandering to the Not In My Back Yard (or NIMBY) gang as he tries to establish a political base – in the absence of real accomplishments during his tenure as a supervisor. Like the loathsome Governor Pete Wilson (and other disreputable politicians including Hitler, Netanyahu, and Hussein), he is exploiting fear and ignorance and pitting groups against each other for political gain. We hate it when Wilson targets "immigrants" (meaning brown people) and Washington lawmakers deride "welfare mothers" (meaning black people); it is no less offensive when the targets are people with AIDS, people with mental health problems, and other people in need of civic support.

We hear that Yee is considering a future run for mayor against Willie Brown, and that this is part of his strategy to demonstrate their differences. While we have no issue with any statesperson being different from Brown, this labeling proposal of Yee's – involving notification signs measuring 900 square inches in the windows of any proposed PWA housing, among others – is clearly the wrong tack to take.

It is especially sad because this is San Francisco, where we supposedly know better than to treat PWAs as lepers, or to act as if mental illness is more shameful than physical illnesses. Moreover, this is a city that has gone through an ugly period of fearing and persecuting "the yellow menace," during which some San Franciscans would have demanded advance public notice that the Yee family intended to move into their neighborhoods. It is appalling that the supervisor could forget that in his rush to pander to potential voters' fears, especially since those Anti-Asian forces could easily rise again with a little prompting from another unscrupulous politician.

This glimpse into the real Leland Yee did not end with his lousy suggestion, but was reportedly followed by his angry phone calls to legislators who were smart and compassionate enough to vote against it. It would seem his bad manners know no bounds.

It was heartening, by the way, to learn that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is

opposed to Yee's proposal, and that Laura Thomas of SFAF testified against it at the hearing. However, it was a little disturbing that the communications director refused to tell the gay press what Thomas had said in her testimony, and brushed us off with a brusque "we have no further comment on that." It isn't as though it was impossible to get a transcript of Thomas's comments elsewhere, and it doesn't seem as though SFAF has anything to hide; quite the opposite, in fact. So why is the organization so incredibly afraid of having its movements monitored? In its zeal to head off a sunshine ordinance, the foundation has sent prospective guests at SFAF board meetings a letter claiming to be immune from such statutes.

As if anyone was really interested in how strong its immune system is.

Anyway, the organization seems to be so worried about scrutiny that it can't even talk openly about its successes. Something is wrong.

Speaking of Pete Wilson, as we did a few paragraphs back, *Hispanic* magazine kicked his scrawny butt this month by naming him "Gringo of the Decade" with a terse outpouring of contempt well worth sharing: "To Pete Wilson, the man who single-handedly pushed the civil rights movement back 30 years, we say, *que gacho, gabacho*. You corralled the hardest-working, most-eager-to-be-American group of people to scapegoat for all the economic problems in your

state in order to save your dying reelection campaign. Your strategy was as brilliant as it was sinister. From Proposition 187 came a national censure of Latino legal and illegal immigrants and, finally, Proposition 209, which ends Affirmative Action in your state and may be used to end it nationwide.

Bad news, though, governor, because you're the man who finally woke us up. Pat yourself on the back, Pete – this is your legacy."

It's always good to see other groups that feel as we do, but simply watching them or being aware of them isn't really enough. It's important to build alliances with them, and support their struggles, so we aren't alone when

we wage our battles. As Senator Ted Kennedy clearly understood when he made the remarks printed below, the battle for civil rights is larger than any single group's quest; if we all can work together, we will be much larger and stronger than the forces that work against us.

And that means, Supervisor Yee, that if you really want to be mayor of the people of San Francisco, you need to make sure your constituency is broad and connected; fragmenting San Franciscans into warring factions will do you no good, and will harm the rest of us. At this time of year, particularly, we urge you to find goodwill towards all people in your heart, and to act for peace on earth.

Come to think of it, those are good guiding principles for us all, at this time and throughout the coming year. ▼



Editorial



What comes after an Affirmative Action?

by Senator Edward M. Kennedy

We must do more to open the American dream to all.

Civil rights is still the great unfinished business of our society and our history. No American should be denied a job or a fair wage for their work because they are women, or because of race, religion, age, disability, ethnic background, or sexual orientation.

Congress should pass the Hate Crimes Act, to enhance the federal government's power to prosecute vicious crimes of bigotry that can victimize entire communities. We should pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw job discrimination against gay and lesbians. And we should also pass new legislation to encourage and support every disabled person's dream to work, to live independently, and to be contributing members of their communities.

President Clinton's National Dialogue on Race is a compelling summons to all of us to start thinking and talking and acting

more effectively about this fundamental challenge to our very character as a nation. People must stop pretending that the challenge has been met, because it hasn't.

Above all, people must stop polarizing the issue for partisan advantage. Surely members of the party of Abraham Lincoln can at least agree that discrimination and bigotry in the workplace are wrong. And I challenge the Republicans who are so busy attacking affirmative action to at least join us in a strong, new, genuine commitment to the full enforcement of existing laws against job discrimination.

I propose that we double the current \$240 million enforcement budget to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over the next five years and pay for it by reallocating funds from the overall federal budget for law enforcement. That budget currently totals \$20 billion a year, and 1 percent more of it committed in this area would be a powerful weapon against bias in employ-

ment and prejudice in promotion.

The massive backlog of current enforcement actions against bigotry in the workplace is a national disgrace. More and more employers are thumbing their nose at current laws. We need to do more to prohibit job bias and guarantee pay equity for women. Illegal job discrimination has to end, and I say give the commission the tools it needs, and let it do the job.

In my view, this is a fundamental test of the sincerity of those who oppose affirmative action. They plead mightily that they also oppose discrimination, but do they really mean it? Let them prove it by providing the resources to root out discrimination in the workplace once and for all. ▼

Guest Opinion

The preceding was excerpted from Senator Kennedy's address to the National Press Club Thursday, December 11, 1997.

LETTERS

Tree mendous support

Once again, the Merchants of the Upper Market & Castro received wonderful support from local businesses in the community to sponsor the annual holiday tree. This year's leading donor is Under One Roof, who provided many of the ornaments for the 1997 tree. Next on the list is Strategic Persuasions Advertising. The next two tiers of donors are: Alternative Mortgage Sources, Castro Street Fair, Headlines, Stadlander's Pharmacy, Ultimate Yogurt & More; followed by Brand X Antiques, Daddy's, Eye Gotcha Optometric, Nirvana Restaurant, The Midnight Sun, Walgreen's, and Zephyr Real Estate.

We would also like to thank the numerous other contributors, all of whose names can be found on the banner displayed at the corner of 18th and Castro.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Save the trees

I've worked tirelessly planting trees with Friends of the Urban Forest in my neighborhood, Eureka Valley, and was the tree coordinator for West Eureka (west of Castro Street).

I heard some disturbing news from Jean Seto, who owns the corner building at 19th Street and Castro Street. The merchants who lease from her are Petpourri Discount Pet Foods (4102 19th St.) and Buffalo Foods (598 Castro).

She told me Petpourri was moving from 4102 19th St. to the new, larger location next door at 4100 19th St., and the merchant/lessee of Petpourri wanted the beautiful cherry tree to be moved (which would kill it), or cut it down, because he felt the tree would affect his business.

The statistical facts are that trees do not hurt business, they improve business. It's up to the neighbors of the Castro to speak up and let the misguided merchants know that you enjoy the trees in front of their stores, or ask them to plant a tree to improve the quality of the neighborhood.

Please let Petpourri Discount Pet Foods know that you love the cherry tree in front of the new store space, and if it is killed or mutilated, that you will not do business in the store. Write to Jean Seto c/o Buffalo Foods that you love the cherry trees in front of her building, and to protect them!

David O'Neil
San Francisco

Our neighborhood, our sexuality

The November 27 B.A.R. carried two disturbing letters sparked by the Castro penis controversy.

Krandall Kraus muses on the statement "Our culture is defined by our sexuality," suggesting that this implies a shallow identity characterized by short-term relationships and by the crass exploitation of flesh. His inference is unjustified: our culture is defined by our sexuality — what else? — but "sexuality" is a broad category, and the culture developing from it has broad and diverse ramifications. One person's sexuality may imply a monogamous, lifelong bond; another's might involve fucking everything in sight. But what holds us together as a culture is our (acknowledged) erotic desire for (among others) those of the same sex, and all that this might imply for each of us, including the wide array of histories and customs that have developed as a consequence of our being in this world.

But how about the naked display of penises and other explicit erotica? Mark Cooper objects that it is "the obligation of any responsible adult" to recognize the "distinction between the worlds of adult and child," and that it is "incumbent upon the gay community to be sensitive to its straight neighbors."

Huh? Is this the demonization of male sexuality — the penis as monster, sex as something of which children (rightfully) must be frightened? What are the unstated assumptions here? Is it everyone's obligation to share these assumptions? Can there be a community — a geographic area — where those who do not share these assumptions find it safe to express themselves openly? If not the Castro, then where?

Mr. Cooper: consider that many straight parents might also find it frightening or "confusing" for their children to see two men, or two women, holding hands or kissing in public. Where do we draw the line on "consideration" of such fears, and why?

Some forms of self-expression (like hand-holding or kissing) should be safe anywhere, and other, more radical ones should certainly be permitted and accepted in our "safe space," just as some parents might seek vastly different "safe spaces" in which to live while raising their children. There should be room in the world for all of us to feel safe being ourselves. Openness itself is not harmful.

Culture? Let's learn from history. Our culture may mean different things to different people, but the stifling of honest sexual self-expression in our own neighborhoods is not one of them.

Mitchell Halberstadt
Daly City, CA

Poor St. Paul

Poor old St. Paul gets misunderstood again, now by Science writer Simon LeVay, Ph.D. in B.A.R., November 27, 1997.

In a rather good article on "What is natural?," LeVay writes, "Two thousand years ago, St. Paul condemned gay sex as 'against nature,' and his viewpoint has been taken for justification for centuries of persecution against gay people." LeVay is correct that the quote from St. Paul has been used to persecute and discriminate against homosexual people, both men and women.

A careful reading of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, along with an up-to-date commentary, shows Paul was condemning straight Christian men and women who were having sex with temple prostitutes of the same sex in pagan Rome. The unnatural action was straight people acting in an unnatural way. Paul was trying to teach the Roman Christians to lead a moral life and worship God in some measure of purity, "decently and in order."

Paul was not writing about gay people having sex with gay people. He probably never heard of same-sex people whose natural state was sex with people of the same gender. He never heard of same-gender people being in relationships with each other. He never conceived of gay people wanting to marry other gay people. The word homosexual was not invented until the 19th century. Certainly the words gay and lesbian are a tad more recent in usage than was the case in St. Paul's time, in the first century.

Paul was condemning unnatural behavior among straight people. Taking Paul's words out of context is a favorite tool of Christian fundamentalists as well as Biblically illiterate critics of Christianity.

The fact that people down through the ages leap on Paul's words to condemn homosexuality is no excuse for the intelligent to do the same in making their case for the rights of homosexuals.

Robert Warren Cromeey
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

Reich-Wing agenda

I hope all gays and other minorities, which include Jews, Blacks, women and others wake up in regards to the Christian Reich (as in Hitler's Third Reich) and the Republican Party.

These groups of Reich Wingers, bigots, Neo-Nazis, militia, Klan and other hate groups are now under the umbrella of the Republican Party.

These hate groups with the blessings of the Republican Party have a devastating agenda in the coming years to gut all Civil Rights and to take over this country by the year 2000, and put in a Republican President selected by Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, Reich Wing-style.

All people must vote in 1998 and 2000, because these Reich Wingers and so-called Christians will not go away, and they have a dreadful/hateful agenda for this country. These bigots will do anything and everything to undermine the people and this country to obtain power.

So it is up to the people of this country to wake up, stop living in Dreamland, and smell the roses of what's coming down the road.

Any gay or minority person that votes Republican Party would be like a Jew voting for Hitler, or an Afro-American person voting for the Ku Klux Klan.

Wake up, people, and be on guard. You might lose all your freedoms.

It happened in Germany in 1932-1933, and it can happen here — wake up.

Shel Myran
Oakland, CA

Love and marriage

When will gay people start using their heads to figure out how to legally declare themselves as married and sue the state of California? Hopefully a political person or lawyer will read this.

"Marriage," according to our dictionary, means a close union, or wedlock. There is no statement that it concerns a man and a woman. "Spouse" is defined as one's wife or husband. A marriage is usually performed in a church, until now! Look up the word "god."

I am a gay atheist, but worship Indian-type beliefs. I also believe in same-sex marriage. If the state of California won't let me marry, my religious belief is violated, which is unconstitutional! If atheists can't marry, California and the U.S. government can be sued. Legally, it is discrimination.

Religious organizations use "freedom of religion," so why don't we? Atheists should declare gays as couples. Use your heads.

Raymond J. Wescott
San Francisco

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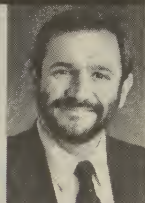
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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

BAY AREA REPORTER

I like Mike

I'm writing to express my appreciation and gratitude to a fellow activist, Michael Petrelis. I applaud and admire his determination and conviction to make sure San Francisco remains the best place on earth for gay people to live. If his harshest critics take an objective look at his record of accomplishment in the two years he's been here, maybe they can see that Michael is personally responsible for:

1. Getting condoms in San Francisco bars. He forced the issue with the Dept. of Public Health, Board of Supervisors, Sandra Hernandez, and "unwilling and uncomfortable" bar-owners to a point where the political pressure forced them to "do the right thing."

2. Getting gay men to utilize the Reality condom/anal condom as another option in safer sex, and creating a demand that forced the Dept. of Public Health to distribute them through the Stop AIDS Project.

3. Taking on AIDS, Inc. with his personal experience, and forcing the long-needed dialogue on accountability. The end result will be a written grievance policy and possibly more open meetings and more public input on how AIDS service providers can better serve their clients (what a concept).

4. Convincing Tom Radulovich and the BART Board that they should provide people living with HIV and AIDS with discounted fares on Muni.

His contributions are endless, and because he takes on the battles of real people, he's a threat to those in power. I'm glad he's there. Thanks, Michael, and keep up the great work!

Shawn O'Hearn
San Francisco

Deeper than simply greed

So we are supposed to respect the executive director of SFAF because, as we are told, she helped write the Ryan White Act. Why is this? It's not like she helped write the Emancipation Proclamation, or the Declaration of Independence, or the Constitution. Does this mean she should receive a salary \$60,000 short of the salary of the current President of the U.S., which stands at \$200,000 a year? Let's face it! The Ryan White Act would have been written with or without the help of Pat Christen. Her signature does not give her the right to exploit the PWA community with her grandiose executive director package.

But the problem here is deeper than simply a greedy executive director at the helm of a "nonprofit" service organization. For example: Just what are the programs provided by SFAF? I will tell you, had SFAF not referred me to the nightmare hotels of 16th and Mission, the kitty litter incident would never have happened. I challenge anyone who defends the "respectable" Pat Christen to go to the Ambassador Hotel, the Mission Hotel on Van Ness & 16th, the Union Hotel on Mission & 16th, and see the condition the SFAF prides itself on "caring for the HIV-positive." Check in! Sleep on the lice-infested mattresses. Turn out the lights and listen to the rats crawling about your room. Go to the corner liquor store and come back with a meal bought with food stamps, but don't leave the food out too long, or the cockroaches will carry it away. I'll warn you, too! If you go to the toilet, make sure you carry a knife, because you might get mugged or raped in the hallway. I speak as an ex-client of SFAF, and I can tell you Pat Christen is not engaged in a "respectable" enterprise.

To those from the Stop AIDS Project who insist on defending her, let me say your reasons are as transparent as they are self-motivated. The Stop AIDS Project, like SFAF, engages in the promotion of deadly experimental drugs with its own brand of self-congratulatory hubris, but real services don't exist. While the city, state and federal governments engage in attacks on disability services for children, the elderly, and the infirm, while the mayor of SF is neck-deep in a homeless crisis, PWAs and the HIV-positive must assert themselves and demand that these so-called "AIDS service organizations" do what they were set out to do, service people with AIDS, and stop feathering their nests with comfy, meaningless office jobs!

Pat Christen was recently quoted on the subject of accountability, "[They say] we are not accountable. I view that as their problem, not mine." Clearly Pat just doesn't get it. It is her salary, her job, her agency, and her problem. In the same article she states, "I would not treat a dog in the way I have been treated." Safe to say the dogs of Pacific Heights, the Castro, the Marina, and Potrero Hill are better treated than the PWAs of Mission & 16th and the Tenderloin.

To the boys of Stop AIDS Project and all the other executive directors and organizations who signed on to their letter, I have one thing to say: "Evidently, your momma never taught you, respect is a mutual thang." The day Pat Christen's SFAF referred me to the shit-hole hotels of 16th & Mission was the day civility went out the window, or as an old drag queen friend from Texas used to say, "Honey, you're fucking with the wrong Mexican."

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Web foot note

Thanks for writing the article about the SFAF web site. In response to your article, I posted a description of the board and information on how people can attend meetings and make presentations at meetings (www.sfaf.org/vol/board.html). That document includes the e-mail address of the board in three locations, as well as the board's phone number. The board page is hyperlinked from the front page (www.sfaf.org/index.html), from the main How Can I Help? page (www.sfaf.org/vol/vol.html) and from the main Contacting SFAF page (www.sfaf.org/contact/contact.html).

The schedule of board meetings for 1998 will be determined in late January; as soon as that information is available I'll post it to the Events Calendar (www.sfaf.org/events/calendar.html).

Jeff De Lucio-Brock
Senior Media Relations Associate & Webmaster,
SFAF, San Francisco

AIDS Research Institute launch

I am writing to thank the Bay Area Reporter, and especially writer Cynthia Laird, for her excellent coverage of our World AIDS Day event December 1. The event provided an opportunity to commemorate the day as well as launch the AIDS Research Institute. UCSF was proud to host a free community forum on Accelerating Discovery and Overtaking the Virus: Science and Solutions for the Next Era of AIDS.

The afternoon symposium brought together researchers from UCSF who spoke on cutting-edge developments including vaccine research, perinatal transmission, and treatment and policy issues affecting young people. We were joined by Mayor Willie Brown, who addressed the models and challenges of AIDS care in San Francisco. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Peter Piot from UNAIDS in Geneva, underscored our mission as a global one. Ms. Laird's coverage of Dr. Piot's message was comprehensive and underscored our belief that our work in the pandemic must be global as well as in our backyard.

The AIDS Research Institute is a new enterprise, an institute without walls, bringing together all existing AIDS programs at UCSF under a single umbrella. The ARI will encompass a dozen research institutes, a wide range of clinical, behavioral science, and policy programs, and roughly 1,000 investigators at various research sites in San Francisco.

The ARI's mission is to accelerate discovery and stop AIDS. The UCSF AIDS Research Institute is the largest AIDS initiative outside the National Institutes of Health. With our long history of discovery and leadership in the fight against HIV, UCSF is uniquely poised to make a difference in the next era of AIDS.

The ARI presents an opportunity for everyone who cares about ending the pandemic to become involved in a new and challenging venture. I hope B.A.R. readers will embrace this endeavor, and that the community will continue to partner with us.

Thomas J. Coates, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
Director, UCSF AIDS Research Institute

Offsite at AHP

I have been facilitating an ongoing HIV/AIDS support group for the AIDS Health Project for over three years now. The group has been meeting for four years at group members' homes. Though the logistics each week have been complicated at times, the rewarding part has been the intimacy and autonomy the group has experienced.

However, when AHP moved to its new site at 1930 Market, we elected to be a part of it and met there for a couple of weeks. We then decided to meet offsite the following week, and I duly informed the agency of this. The following day, I received a call from the Group Program Coordinator informing me that "an edict has come down that henceforward, all groups will meet at the 1930 Market site."

I do want to temper my remarks; from the evening I started with this group, I thought they were one hell of a bunch of guys. I would like to continue with them. However, I was astonished that a substantive and significant policy change such as the above was never communicated to us, and I actually had to find out inadvertently. I subsequently learned in my monthly routine consultation group that another facilitator had been informed four weeks prior.

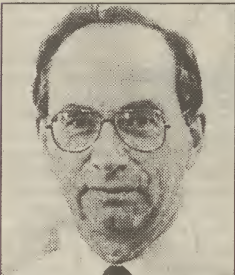
I am saddened by what I view as a lack of respect for group members as well as the facilitator. To give the agency some credit, I must admit that I've never seen it function in this fashion in the past. But that's why I'm writing this letter, to alert the wider community to a change in AHP which worries me. Incidentally, in case they are not aware of this, I want to point out that although AHP is affiliated with UCSF, they do not receive any funding from them. All funding is allocated in precisely the same fashion as it is for the AIDS Foundation and Shanti, and they need to be equally accountable.

Leonard Maran, L.C.S.W.
San Francisco

Kopp gives Willie the willies

by Wayne Friday

The always enterprising state Senator **Quentin Kopp** held a news conference in front of City Hall last week to announce an initiative for the June ballot that would force changes in ongoing renovations of the 82-year-old edifice, currently being repaired because of '89 earthquake damage. Some saw the ballot plan as aimed directly at Mayor **Willie Brown**, and further, a signal that the venerable Kopp plans to challenge Brown in the next mayoral race.



The always contentious Quentin.

Frankly, I doubt it. To be sure, the planned initiative is aimed at the style-conscious Brown, but the chances of Senator Kopp running for mayor in 1999 are minimal. More importantly, if Kopp can get voters' approval of his scheme to force Brown to back-track on making the renovated City Hall a showplace for himself and his protocol chief, the ever-lovely **Charlotte Maillard Schultz**, he will have once again defeated Brown, his old political nemesis. Kopp will then most likely anoint — or at least support — another person for mayor in two years.

The Kopp measure, which needs about 10,000 signatures to qualify for the June ballot, would force Brown to vacate his plans to bring back only about 800 of the former 1,250 building occupants. Kopp's plan further specifies that except for a ground-floor rotunda, the building shall "not be used lavishly or wastefully for any city government office or for entertainment or banquet facilities."

Upon taking office in early 1996, Mayor Brown loudly announced that the new spruced-up building should be used to house fewer offices and more space for the mayor (surprise!). He also wanted it to include a wet bar; catering kitchen; and several thousand square feet of open space for galleries, exhibits, and social events (enter Schultz and Stanley Gattae).

Critics of the mayor and some members of the media quickly dubbed the proposed City Hall as Willie Brown's Taj Mahal. In response to this criticism, Brown has quietly scaled back some of his original grandiose plans.

However, Kopp said last week that Brown's overall vision of an "entertainment center" still remains. The senator feels that a ballot initiative will take care of Mr. Brown's plans to push the "little pencil-pushers" who work for the city elsewhere and turn the architectural jewel of a building over to the Pacific Heights set for lavish parties. Kopp obviously smells a winner here, telling re-

porters that "I think this initiative will touch a nerve with most San Francisco taxpayers and voters who expect their City Hall to be the principal place for city government, and not a place for the personal prerogatives and pleasures of politicians."

Specifically, Kopp's proposal says that voters, in approving \$63.6 million in bond money in 1995 (Prop. A), were ultimately deceived. He adds that that the bond issue, which is partially funding the \$224 million refurbishment, was billed at the time as a "cost-saving, good-government" measure. In short, Kopp's initiative, which most political observers feel will pass, allows all the city departments that occupied the building prior to the October 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake to return.

Kopp, still celebrating a win over the mayor with last month's Prop. H (Central Freeway), which Brown opposed, is itching for yet another victory over his despised rival. He sees this as just the type of measure he can easily defeat Brown on. What likely candidate will Kopp then throw his still considerable political clout behind to defeat Brown in 1999? Well, the name of Supervisor **Leland Yee**, another leader in the victorious Prop. H campaign, does keep popping up. (See this week's B.A.R. cover story for more on him.) Stay tuned; this one could be really fun!

Mayoral media watch

The aforementioned Mayor Brown was on KRON's *California This Week* program Sunday with **Belva Davis**, **Rollin Post**, and a *Chron* reporter in what was billed as a review of the mayor's first two years in office. The segment quickly turned into a love-fest, however, with Brown simply rattling off a laundry list of his accomplishments. Not one hardball question from the panel!

The mayor proved why he is so successful with the media, charming Belva, Rollin, and the thrilled *Chron* reporter with chatter and jokes. Indeed, the three seemed so excited by Brown's presence that they giggled and laughed like three star-struck high school kids.

Conversely, CNN didn't treat the mayor with such kid gloves last week. In an interview on that network, pro All-Star rebounder **Charles Barkley** touched on Brown's determination to play the race card in the recent Golden Gate Warriors-**Latrell Sprewell** controversy. Barkley commented on CNN's *Crossfire* program that "I don't want to say anything bad about the mayor of San Francisco, but he's an idiot."

Don't tell our local politicians, but voters in Austin, Texas, recently passed true campaign reform. Candidates there are now limited to \$100 contributions per person for the offices of mayor and city council.

You just know that Attorney General **Dan Lungren** and "Sneaky" **Pete Wilson** were busy slapping each other on the back upon hearing that the First District Court of Appeal ruled that Prop. 215 doesn't allow cannabis clubs to legally sell marijuana to

chronically ill patients. Wilson "praised" the decision, and would-be governor Lungren called the ruling "good news." SF DA **Terence Hallinan**, the hero of the hour, stated Monday that patients may still be able to buy medical marijuana despite the ruling. He cited "potential loopholes" in the decision that may allow the order to be circumvented.

You're probably tired of **Ellen DeGeneres** items, but this one deserves mention. The actress last week picked up an award from the ACLU for furthering gay rights with her TV show. Given the ACLU of Southern California's Bill of Rights Award at an LA dinner, DeGeneres said, "From the beginning, I said that I never wanted to become a spokesperson for gay rights. But here I am, and there's still a lot more to do."



Sharon McNight

I stress once again that I seldom plug club dates ... but I make exceptions when it's **Sharon McNight!** She's appearing December 20-January 4 at Josie's (861-7933). She's quite simply an exceptional entertainer. Don't miss her.

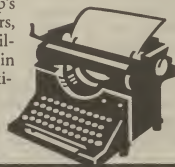
Oakland Mayor **Elihu Harris** finally announced he won't run again for that office, but will probably take on state Senator **Barbara Lee** (D) for the right to replace retiring Rep. **Ron Dellums**.

Also in the East Bay, the Republicans are pushing retiring 49er star **Brent Jones** as their candidate against popular Rep. **Ellen Tauscher** (D) in the 10th Congressional District next year. Jones is an extremely right-wing Christian type, and Tauscher is a friend of the gay/lesbian community who has done a hell of a job in her freshman term.

In San Jose, former Mayor **Tom McEnery** (D) last week endorsed Republican Councilwoman **Pat Dondo** as that growing city's next mayor over former Santa Clara County Supervisor **Ron Gonzales**, a gay-friendly Democrat. Some of McEnery's former supporters are wondering what's up with that endorsement.

One of the most respected defense attorneys in town, **V. Roy Lefcourt**, will run for a seat on the San Jose Municipal Court next June. He's got it all over his incumbent opponent and deserves to win.

Finally, **Elton John**, one of the world's most famous openly gay men, will reportedly be knighted next year by England's **Queen Elizabeth II**. Congratulations, Reggie! ▼



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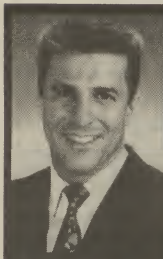
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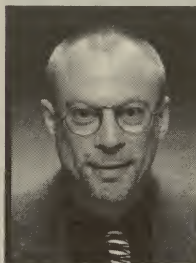
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Degrees of separation

by Beth Elliott

Gambling for High Steaks Dept.: Not without some sorrow, I recently noted I've made more departures from what would seem to be standard lesbian lifestyle practices, judging by how many lesbians assume them to be what we do. The behaviors I'm eschewing are by no means the essentials of a lesbian life; those should still be putting women first in friendship, affection, romance and sexual attraction and commitment. (Or am I safe assuming this, in these days when some women are entering primary relationships with men while insisting they're lesbians and not bisexual?)

Still, when one is living in ways and doing things counter to popular assumptions in our communities and media about how lesbians live, one can feel like an oddball. As someone whose love of women (but not necessarily a primary identity as a lesbian) looms large in my sense of self, to the point of shaping things like my spirituality, this divergence of basic assumptions does make me take notice and colors my feelings with a certain *tristesse*. On the other hand, a reasoned analysis of my choices tells me they are intelligent ones, because the benefits are readily apparent.

ing a diet "wacko" is redundant, and I'm inclined to agree with them. Nevertheless, under the principle of "my body, my choice," I've joined a lesbian friend in the concept of eating like a hunter-gatherer: cutting out farmed starches, refined sugar, and dairy in favor of meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, nuts (save peanuts and cashews), and seeds.

This supposedly takes the immune system out of the digestive process (wacko alert! wacko alert!), resets the set point, and does great things for the cholesterol and insulin levels. (Didn't diabetes rates go up when eating lots of starches and less meat came into fashion? Actually, to eat like a Cro-Magnon (to the tune of "Walk Like an Egyptian") reminds me of a high-protein diet a physician put me on when I was 13, and replicates some of "The Zone."

I've noticed some very positive changes in just a month. My clothes are looser, for one thing — I even passed the "freshly laundered denim jeans test." (As in, "Wow, I just washed these jeans, and they're not taking squeezing into!") My digestion has improved immeasurably; I've lost

after my noting her cartons of rice milk, etc., suggests to me she might nonetheless be somewhat unnerved by the extent of my departure from the custom of at least a grain-based diet. (A pro-meat link two clicks off the "Neder-Thin" web page was an essay by a Satanist on how grain-based diets helped founders of religions enslave the masses in ancient times — wacko alert! wacko alert!)

Even though not all lesbians share the political view that meat is "murder" (a view that unites a number of lesbians across generational lines), or that eating meat led to the introduction of patriarchal violence, there's still something of a sentiment to the effect that those who eat little or no

meat are more gentle and pacifistic, and therefore bet-

ter people (like famous vegetarian Adolf Hitler?), and therefore "normal." I, on the other hand, have traded rice, potatoes or pasta with veggies and a little meat or cheese thrown in, for an increasing amount of meat, with bulk from veggies. So now, not only will any of my lapses from lesbian orthodoxy get written off as the effect of evil diet, I'll likely be con-

Nevertheless, under the principle of "my body, my choice," I've joined a lesbian friend in the concept of eating like a hunter-gatherer: cutting out farmed starches, refined sugar, and dairy, in favor of meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, nuts (save peanuts and cashews), and seeds.

Beyond that, I'm prompted to question mainstream thinking by a few instances of, well, low-grade fear I've been seeing on the part of some lesbians of late, namely a certain hesitation to say things that fall outside lesbian conventional wisdom. That kind of self-policing sets off major warning bells for me, and tells me it's time to put into active practice the maxim, "Being really opinionated and mouthing off is what Bethies do best!"

One of my departures has to do with diet. In particular, a new regimen I refer to as "the wacko diet." Some folks would say label-

sugar cravings (passing up a number of afternoon dessert opportunities at work). I'm eating less without feeling hungry. I can't wait for next softball season, as I run bases well now, and I'm dreaming about what I can do with less mass to propel.

On the other hand, there's the matter of dealing with minor lapses (like holiday parties) by eating only protein for 24 to 48 hours afterward. I had the discussion with the new housemate about mine not being a vegetarian household. However, her finding paper towels covering thawing cuts of meat in the refrigerator,

sidered more dangerous as well. (Hark! Is that the bleating of sheep I hear in the distance?)

Another lapse on my part is my failure to get swept up in the attack on "the automobile culture," which has been stepped up during the negotiations over cutting greenhouse gases to stop global warming. Now, I'm someone who both carpools and makes use of public transportation whenever convenient. At the same time, I value the mobility and independence my minivan makes possible. I value the adventures my minivan has made possible, especially since those adventures have fostered personal growth and helped me work through grief better than any therapy.

But this supposedly makes me someone helping to choke the Earth. Bitch that I am, I've wondered about the science behind the alarm over greenhouse gases and global warming. Bitch that I am, I've noted that scientific data from high atmosphere monitoring shows global temperatures have actually *decreased* by .4 degrees Celsius during the 20th century. I've noted discoveries that the Sun's surface temperature is not constant, and that its fluctuations may affect Earth's temperature. And I've noted that while there has been a large increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide this century, most of it took place before 1940 and the explosion of the "automobile culture."

Obviously, a highly carnivorous diet has made me too logical, and other such nasty things. ▼

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SCIENCE LESSON

What kind of lesbian are you?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

One of the more enduring perceptions about lesbians is that they come in two types, "butch" and "femme." According to the description given by JoAnn Loulan in her 1990 book *The Lesbian Erotic Dance*, butch lesbians are assertive, athletic, and aggressive; they tend to adopt traditionally masculine styles of dress and appearance, and they are often leaders. Femme lesbians are affectionate, sensitive, yielding, child-like, and child-loving, and they adopt more typically feminine dress and mannerisms.

Do butch and femme lesbians form couples, thus mimicking the coupling of men and women in stereotypical heterosexual relationships? And if so, why is that? Are butches and femmes biologically different, perhaps as a result of a different genetic endowment, or is it more a matter of culture and role-playing?

The butch/femme distinction has been fairly durable in the history of lesbian culture, although attitudes towards it have changed greatly over time. According to Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, whose book *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* recounts the lives of working-class lesbians in Buffalo, New York in the 1950s, lesbians of that era were required to declare themselves as butch or femme and to act accordingly, and lesbian relationships could only be between a butch and a femme. With the rise of lesbian-feminism, the butch/femme distinction became politically suspect: butches were too much like men, and femmes were too much like men's sex-objects. As described by Lillian Fa-

derman (in her book *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*), the ideal lesbian relationship in the 1970s was one in which the partners "took turns being soft and strong." Nowadays, the butch/femme distinction is very much back in evidence, but it often seems to have a more ironic or playful quality than it did in the 1950s.

In 1996, a group of psychologists at Georgia State University, led by Sharon Pearcey, reported on their study of 28 lesbian

couples in the Atlanta area. They first asked all the participants to rate themselves on an eight-point "butch/femme" scale. They found a significant negative correlation between the scores of the two members of the pairs: in other words, the more butch one member rated herself, the more femme the other rated herself.

This finding supports the traditional notion that lesbian relationships tend to be formed across the butch/femme divide. It runs counter to a wide body of literature, based mainly on heterosexual couples, which says that couples are very similar to each other in many characteristics—that "opposites don't attract," in other words. Heterosexual couples, however, are already "opposite" in the sense of being a male and a female together. Perhaps a portion of that "oppositeness" serves as a glue in many lesbian relationships.

Intrigued to know whether there might be some biological basis for the butch/femme difference, Pearcey and her colleagues went on to measure testosterone levels in the women in the study. Although the differences were not great, they found a significant tendency for the more butch partner in a relationship to have higher

testosterone levels (as measured in saliva) than the more femme partner. The authors interpret their findings to mean that preexisting (possibly innate) endocrinological differences between individual lesbians influence the selection of mates or of gender roles.

While I certainly accept this as an interesting possibility, one should also be aware of another possible interpretation, which is that the differences in testosterone levels result from roles taken in the relationship, rather than causing them.

As to the question of whether there is a genetic predisposition to being a butch or femme lesbian, the data aren't yet available. Still, the traits that characterize the butch/femme difference have a substantial genetic basis: according to the long-running University of Minnesota study of twins reared apart, for example, genes account for at least half of the reason why people differ in aggressiveness and dominance. Thus it is possible that, whatever path leads a woman to a lesbian identity, inborn predisposition may influence her to become a particular kind of kind of lesbian. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com.

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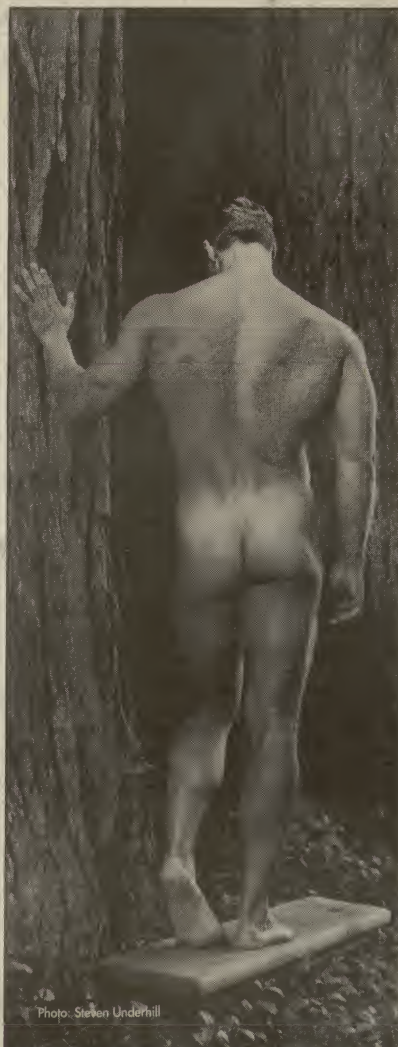
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Should media respect closeted gays?

by Don Romesburg,
 GLAAD/SF media resource
 center manager

Miami Herald staffer Steve Rothaus examined the evolving challenges for media outlets in covering closeted lesbian and gay community leaders, in the paper's "Outlooks" column December 4. "When heterosexual community leaders are profiled in newspapers and on television, it is routinely reported whom they are dating or married to," Rothaus began. "But this information is seldom revealed about prominent gays and lesbians, making them seem two-dimensional. Few issues are more sensitive than whether the news media should respect the privacy of gay people in the closet. Many are still horrified at the suggestion of outing public people who spend their personal lives in complete privacy."

Rothaus interviewed local editors and journalists, who seemed to feel that each instance should be considered case by case. "If you have a person who has devoted a significant portion of his life to gay and lesbian issues, you would want to reflect on that," said Herald managing editor Larry Olmstead.

stead. The journalists "agree, though that sexual orientation plays a major role in who a person is, regardless of how open (or closeted) the individual," Rothaus wrote. He added that among lesbian and gay activists, there is hardly a consensus. And the issue becomes particularly complex when dealing with closeted members of the media itself, such as "one gay South Florida newsman who says he keeps his personal and professional lives apart. The broadcaster, who often contributes to network news stories, said he would 'prefer not to take the chance' that coming out would destroy his career."

Please let the *Miami Herald* know that as this important and controversial debate continues to evolve, Rothaus contributes a valuable article to the mix.

Contact: Larry Olmstead, Managing Editor, *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693, fax: 305.376.8950, e-mail: Herald-Ed@aol.com.

Larsen blames gay activists for AIDS

In the pantheon of anti-gay AIDS diatribes, syndicated columnist Leonard Larsen's De-

cember 7 column, "Gays Still Mostly Responsible for Ongoing AIDS Epidemic," will earn its own plaque on the wall with its specious reasoning, outdated statistics, and blame-laying.

Larsen's column, which was written in response to World AIDS Day, maintained that "gay activists" have hidden the "real" culprits behind HIV (i.e., gay people) by pushing pictures of women and children to the forefront. The columnist went on to point to a Washington, DC ceremony where President Clinton delivered a message to young people encouraging them to "keep yourself safe," and to a HIV-positive six-year-old girl who read a statement which said, in part, "AIDS can affect everyone, but so can ignorance." Larsen saw those as examples of deflecting blame from the gay community, whose "ceaseless gay-bar hopping and orgies of anonymous gay sex ... helped launch the epidemic."

Please write to Leonard Larsen, and Scripps Howard News Service, and tell them that this hateful rhetoric harms many people.

Contact: Marvin West, Managing Editor, and Leonard Larsen, Columnist, Scripps Howard News Service, 1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005-4905, fax: 202.408.5950, e-mail: shns@shns.com. ▼



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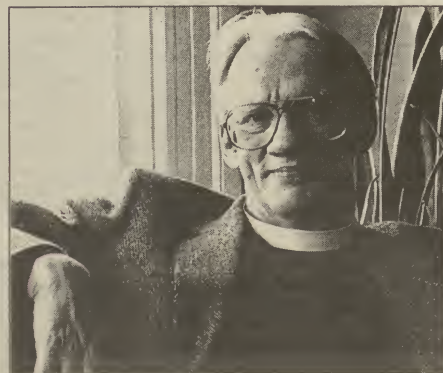
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 - 7:00 p.m. Greet the New Year

Old First Presbyterian Church

1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness 776-5552
 The Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen &
 The Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee, Pastors
 ♦ Sunday December 21
 -11:00 a.m. Communion service with liturgical dance
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -5:30 p.m. Candlelight service of lessons & carols and a do-it-yourself Christmas pageant
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St. Boniface Catholic Church

133 Golden Gate Avenue 863-0111
 The Rev. David L. Norgard, Rector
 ♦ Christmas Eve Bilingual Celebration (Spanish-English)
 -10:00 p.m. Christmas Hymns
 -10:45 p.m. Christmas Liturgy
 ♦ Christmas Day
 -7:30, 9:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. English Mass
 -10:30 a.m. Spanish Mass
 ♦ Sunday December 28
 -5:30 p.m. HIV/AIDS Healing Mass and New Year's Celebration

St. Francis Lutheran Church

152 Church Street 621-2635
 Pastors: James DeLange, Ruth Frost, Michael Hiller, and Phyllis Zillhart
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 10:30 p.m. Carols and Preludes
 -11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
 ♦ Christmas Day
 -11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist with Choir

St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church

500 De Haro Street at Mariposa 255-8100
 The Rev. Richard Fabian & The Rev. Donald Schell, Rectors
 ♦ Sunday Worship - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -6:30 p.m. Pageant and Service
 ♦ First Sunday of Christmas, December 28th
 -10:00 a.m. Special music liturgy:
 - Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1661 15th Street at Julian 861-1436
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 The Rev. David L. Norgard, Rector
 ♦ Christmas Eve - 11:00 p.m.
 ♦ Christmas Day - 11:00 a.m.
 ♦ Epiphany Festival Service - Tues. January 6
 -7:00 p.m.
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St. John's United Church of Christ

501 Laguna Honda Blvd at Woodside 731-9333
 The Rev. Roger Ridgway, Pastor
 Pastor John Lehrack, minister of Music
 ♦ December 21 - 4th Sunday in Advent
 -10:30 a.m. Gabriel tells the story.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 7:30 p.m. A candlelight service of readings and carols
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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street 928-7770
 Dr. Jan Womer, Pastor
 ♦ December 21 & 28
 8:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 5:00 p.m. Eucharist & Christmas Pageant
 -11:00 p.m. Candlelight Choral Eucharist
 ♦ Christmas Day
 -11:00 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
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Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church

1329 Seventh Avenue, SF 664-2543
 The Rev. Jeffrey Gains
 ♦ Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons & Carols
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Trinity Episcopal Church

1668 Bush Street 775-1117
 The Rev. Robert Warren Cromey, Rector
 ♦ Sunday Services
 -8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
 -11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Music and Sermon
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -10:30 p.m. Choral Music
 -11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Communion
 ♦ Christmas Day
 -11:00 a.m. Holy Communion and Hymns
 -12:15 p.m. Christmas Dinner - Free
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Congregational Church of Belmont

751 Alameda de las Pulgas 593-4547
 Lee Cruise, Interim Pastor
 ♦ Sunday Worship -10:30 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 5:30 p.m. Family Service
 -10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
 Carols with Choir
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First Congregational Church, Alameda

1912 Central Avenue 510-522-6012
 Larry Schulz & Joyce Ellis, Ministers
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 5:00 p.m. Family Service of Worship and Church School Pageant
 -10:45 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service
 ♦ Sunday Service of Worship - 10:30 a.m.
An Open and Affirming Congregation

First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Dana and Durant 510-848-3696
 The Rev. Patricia E. de Jong, Senior Minister
 ♦ Sunday Worship & Church School
 -10:00 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 5:00 p.m. Family Service for all ages
 -9:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Carols
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First Baptist Church of Berkeley

2345 Channing Way 510-848-5838
 Corner of Dana and Durant Streets
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 The Rev. Esther Hargis, Pastor
 ♦ Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
 ♦ Epiphany Party - January 10th
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Mira Vista United Church of Christ

7075 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito 510-234-0110
 The Rev. Shirlee M. Bromley
 ♦ Christmas Service, Sunday December 21
 -10:00 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
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St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland

1658 Excelsior Ave. 510-530-6333
 1 block off MacArthur Blvd.
 Between Fruitvale & Park Blvd.
 ♦ Sunday Eucharist - 10:00 a.m.
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 -5:00 p.m. Family Service
 -10:30 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Carols

Trinity United Methodist Church, Berkeley

2362 Bancroft Way at Dana 510-548-4716
 The Rev. Kim Smith, Pastor; The Rev. Schuyler Rhodes, Campus Minister
 ♦ Sunday Celebration of Worship
 -10:00 a.m. Festive Christmas Brunch and Do-It-Yourself Pageant December 14
 ♦ Christmas Eve
 - 5:30 p.m. Celebration for Children and Families
 -11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
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Pot club clobbered

Lungren's court smoke bomb has medicinal pot users fuming

by Ron Lazar

First District Court of Appeals Determines That Cannabis Buyers' Clubs Are Illegal": so says a December 12 news release from Attorney General Dan Lungren's office.

News of the threatened closure of the precedent-setting San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club spread quickly and prompted a rush of panic buying among people with AIDS, cancer, and other medical conditions. However, the order to shut down the medicinal marijuana club may be delayed for 90 days, pending the California Supreme Court's decision on whether to hear the appeal.

Lungren's persistent opposition to implementation of Proposition 215, which voters passed in a 56 percent victory last August to allow for the medical use of marijuana, seems to be "backfiring," said Dennis Peron, the grassroots Proposition 215 author, activist, and co-founder of the Cannabis Cultivators Club.

"Lungren's attacks will be counterproductive for him. I think

he's playing right into my hands," Peron told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Lungren is giving us publicity for our movement. It started out about marijuana, but now it's about democracy and freedom."

Whatever the battle between Lungren and Peron is about, it is perhaps not coincidentally being waged by the only two Republican Primary candidates for Governor on next June's ballot. The repeated legal challenges levied by Lungren against Peron's Cannabis Cultivators Club are beginning to look "increasingly like a petty personal attack against his rival candidate," according to one government official who asked to remain anonymous.

Peron joked to the *B.A.R.* about the two primary candidates facing off in court. "This is a first, I think. He's tried to put me in jail for 12 years, and I'm trying to get to the Governor's House!"

"My first official act will be to pardon myself, if I win."

Ruling disappoints DA

Despite Lungren's confident assertion that the ruling gives "proper guidance" to all law enforcement agencies, Public Information Officer John Shanley from the office of San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan said the ruling gave no clear guidance to the District Attorney.

"Absolutely it is not clear," Shanley stated emphatically. "This ruling really just further muddies the water. It doesn't make clear to people who are sick and in need of medicinal marijuana how to get [it] other than through illegal means."

The distinction made by the court seemed to be little more than splitting hairs when it tried in its ruling to distinguish be-

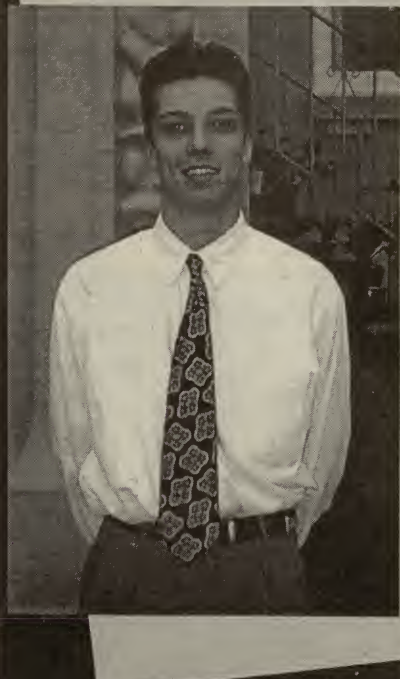


Leaves of grass: CBC volunteer Michael Burns (left) shows new Phoenix Brand cannabis to delighted visitor Daniel Jackson earlier this year.

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Smoke detector: The old Cannabis Buyers' Club was shut down by the attorney general and lackeys in August.

tween "selling" marijuana, which is illegal, and a primary caregiver (a classification the CDC did not fit into, in the court's opinion) legally supplying pot and receiving "remuneration."

"This is about the civil injunction that they used to close the Cannabis Buyers' Club in August," Peron explained. "That was an injunction that says we were selling pot here, and that is illegal. Then we passed Proposition 215. Judge David Garcia of Superior Court of San Francisco ordered the CBC reopened in accordance with the new law, and said we could distribute marijuana if people have letters of diagnosis from their doctor and approval of the doctor. And that is exactly what we did."

"That court order was appealed, and the decision came down that we cannot be a caregiver for thousands of people and sell to them, but we can be a caregiver for thousands of people and cultivate for them, and we could be remunerated for our costs, like the cost of fertilizer, the time and labor involved, et cetera. It's a convoluted decision that says you can't sell but you can be remunerated, and that's just another word for sell. At the same time, the decision is all political. This whole thing is political, essentially trying to thwart the will of the people, but I don't think the people are going to stand by and let that happen. We are not ruled by an oligarchy. We are ruled by democracy. It's not about marijuana anymore, now it's about democracy and whether we really have a voice in America."

So who is a primary caregiver? "It's a semantics game," said Peron. "What I am going to do is use their terms, and come back at them. It is not a buyers club. It is a cultivators club, because we legalized cultivation. I really am the caregiver."

The issue before the Supreme Court will be to assess the intent of Prop. 215. Shanley told the B.A.R., "I think that Dennis Peron knows pretty well what the intent of the initiative was — to provide medicinal marijuana, to patients who need it, in a legal manner. I think the clubs being primary caregiver makes perfectly good sense. If the Supreme Court looks at it, they will have to look at it according to the intent of the initiative, and that's pretty clear to all of us."

"Lungren asked us [the District Attorney's office] to bust the CCC prior to Prop. 215, and we declined to do that. He asked the Feds to, they declined to do it, so he went and did it himself."

Hallinan also expressed a compassionate perspective on the court ruling. "I am disappointed in it," he told the B.A.R. "It was not very well thought-out. It's full of conflicts and not entirely honest. All three judges did agree that the club was not a 'primary care-

giver.' I think, partly, none of them are familiar with how the CCC and other clubs operate, that they are, in fact, done properly."

"The majority decision was based on the grounds that Prop. 215 exempted possession and cultivation, but it didn't exempt sales. Therefore, you can't sell marijuana, even if it is done for no profit, so the club was guilty of violating the law. Well, that's a pretty stupid decision, if you ask me, because that way it means the only way a sick person can get marijuana is to grow it themselves, and how can a person dying of AIDS grow marijuana? What, are you going to wait nine months to get it? It is not a well thought-out decision."

Judicial voice of reason

One of the judges does agree with Hallinan. The B.A.R. obtained the court's decision, and the documents in fact show the opinion of Judge J. Kline differing markedly with the other two judges, P.J. Peterson and J. Haning. Judge Kline's more tempered conclusion was that "by enacting [Prop. 215], the voters of this state sought to ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes. The 'right to obtain' marijuana is, of course, meaningless if it cannot legally be satisfied."

Kline also cited that some fundamental intents of Prop. 215 may not be fully taken into account by the other two judges, writing that "practical realities dictate that there be some leeway in applying the statutory prohibitions pertaining to marijuana

where strict enforcement would defeat or obstruct the purpose of Proposition 215. Local governments in California are now exploring ways in which to responsibly implement the new law so as to relieve those medically in need of marijuana, but unable to cultivate it, from the need to do so. I do not think we should make gratuitous blanket determinations which might prematurely interfere with those efforts."

Hallinan told the B.A.R., "I think Dennis [Peron] should prepare an affidavit for the Supreme Court about how carefully his club works, how carefully people are screened, how they verify doctors, recommendations how the Health Department supervises it, how the District Attorney's office supervises it."

Still, Hallinan sees reason to feel hopeful. "I don't think people should get too disappointed too soon. This ruling definitely merits an opinion by the Supreme Court. When you read it, you just go, 'It's gobbledegook,' you know? It merits the Supreme Court opinion to explain it, to make it clear. Hopefully, they will do that and then we can go from there. Otherwise, people better be prepared to grow a lot of plants."

Peron seems unworried, and determined to continue to operate. "We are not going to close these doors," he said. "We are not going to send our patients out to the streets to buy marijuana. We are going to continue operation. If they want to bring in the tanks, bring in their agents, then so be it! Let them come!" ▼

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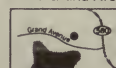
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Hot stuff: the gay-owned San Francisco Chili Traders.

The gift of fire

by Cynthia Laird

Over one million years ago, when the Early Pleistocene hominids inhabited the earth, they advanced civilization by learning to manipulate fire; evidence of fire has been associated with archaeological sites, primarily in eastern Africa and outside of that continent. Over time, the different incarnations of hominids have become extinct, leaving *Homo sapiens* as the only extant species today.

Fast-forwarding to the present, humans living in industrialized countries have, for the most part, changed the way they use fire; its use has evolved from being an essential element for survival (e.g. starting a cooking fire without matches) to something more often associated with romance (e.g. cuddling with that special someone in front of a fireplace).

Of course, modern language uses fire and related words like heat, burning, etc. to describe passions between two people, and during this holiday season, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender couples can put the fire back into their relationships... or perhaps find some new person to heat things up with. It is in that spirit that we offer the following gift ideas that take divergent paths when it comes to "fire."

Bed 'n' breakfast getaway

There's nothing like staying at a bed 'n' breakfast with the person who's got you on fire, and you don't even have to leave San Francisco for a romantic interlude. **The Parker House** Historic Guest House and Gardens is the Castro's newest and grandest guest house, say partners in business and life Bob Boeddiker and Bill O'Halloran. The five-room guest house was recently renovated, and it's located on Church Street, just steps away from Dolores Park, Market Street, the historic streetcars, cafes, bars, and shops.

Boeddiker and O'Halloran are in the holiday spirit and have a "getaway special" that will continue through April 1. Guests who stay a minimum of three nights will be indulged with rooms stocked with complimentary champagne or sparkling cider; fresh flowers in abundance; and a box of world-class Joseph Schmidt chocolates. At night, couples can snuggle in front of the home's large fireplace; privacy is generally not a problem, Boeddiker said.

"We serve coffee and breakfast in bed, too," he added. "Bob and I take a lot of pride in doting on our guests. The Parker House is heavily decorated through the new year, too."

Boeddiker and O'Halloran

have noticed that word of their establishment is spreading; lately, guests have largely been local residents, including parents of Bay Area gays and lesbians, who have heard about it from their children. If you're not involved with anyone, perhaps a stay at the Parker House is just the holiday gift for your parents.

Rates for a three-night stay start at \$129 per night, and they upgrade guests whenever it's possible. To make reservations, call toll-free, (888) 520-7275.

Lesbian passion heats up

Especially for women who love women, **Rising Star Records** has come out with *Dreams of Desire*. The compact disc's art should get your feelings hot within minutes; renowned women's photographer Judy Francesconi has taken all-new, passionate shots of women loving other women. As for the music, *Dreams of Desire* is a collection of orchestral favorites for romance and any quiet, intimate times.

Selections include Ludwig Van Beethoven's *Fur Elise*, from the film *Immortal Beloved*; Antonio Vivaldi's *Winter*, from *The Four Seasons*; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Romance*, from *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*; Robert Schumann's *Dreaming*, from *Scenes from Childhood*; and Aaron Copeland's *Corral No-*

page 17 ►

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HOLIDAY ELEMENTS

Great gifts from thin air

by Shan Schwartz

What would we do without air?

It gives us oxygen. It gives us our fog, clouds, and rain. And more importantly this time of year, it gives us ideas for holiday gifts on any budget, ranging from home decoration and electronics to world travel.

For high-tech-minded gift-givers, communication through the air can be shared through many different gifts. One possibility is a little device ever-more-frequently seen on sidewalks and in cars: a cell phone.

John Wolford, manager of **Rainbow Wireless** (2354 Market Street) said cellular phones have become very mainstream this year.

"Last year, it was still kind of a pretentious item to own, but I think that's not the case so much anymore," Wolford said. "It's becoming an increasingly acceptable thing to have now."

Traditional cellular phones aren't always the easiest gift, however, because the cell phones are usually purchased as part of a service plan that requires a credit check and signed service contract.

But a new type of wireless phone, a PCS phone, is available this year and presents a new gift option, Wolford said. With excellent sound quality, security, features and pricing options, Wolford said the new PCS wireless telephones "wipe cell phones right off the map."

Wolford said PCS phones also make better gifts than traditional cellular phones, because the phone is purchased from a retailer, and the service plan can be arranged later through Sprint or

Pacific Bell.

Pagers also make an easy gift, Wolford said, because a pager is purchased with a fixed price (usually \$100-140) which includes a year of service.

If wireless electronics interest your loved ones, another air-oriented gift idea is wireless headphones or speakers.

Bill Smullin, salesman at **Eber Electronic Supply** (2355 Market Street) said the options for wireless sound delivery range from \$69 headphones to \$499 speakers, or even waterproof speakers that can be used outdoors.

Both the headphones and speakers are available in infrared systems or 900-megahertz frequency systems. Infrared systems have the better sound quality, Smullin said, but they have a range of only about 20 feet, as opposed to 150 feet for the 900-mhz systems, and the infrared systems must be in a visible line of sight

from the transmitter, which the other systems do not.

Air travel

If your loved ones aren't into electronics or already are on that cutting edge, perhaps you can give them a gift that send them traveling through the air to exciting destinations or events in 1998. Some possibilities include Gay Ski Week in Aspen in January; the Gay Mardi Gras in Australia in February; or even Amsterdam in August for the Gay Games.

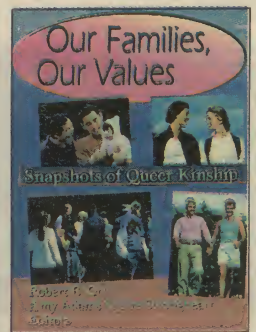
Jonathan Klein, owner of **New Voyager Travel** (4406 18th Street) said that when someone wants to give a gift of travel, he usually suggests a travel gift certificate so the recipients can plan the details of their vacation themselves.

Klein said gift certificates can be given in any amount, and travel agents can help put together packages to any destination at any time of year.

For the Gay Games in particular, Klein said travel packages to Amsterdam, including airfare and accommodations, start around \$1,800 per person.

Now, if these electronics and travel gifts are a little out of your budget, other gift ideas abound in the Castro. If spirituality runs through the air around your loved ones, one idea might be a new book presenting a spiritual light on gay families. *Our Families, Our Values: Snapshots of Queer Kinship* is available at **A Different Light** (489 Castro Street) and other area bookstores, and features essays by queer scholars, advocates, and theologians, including many who live or have lived in the Bay Area. The book is edited by Robert E. Goss and Amy Adams Squire Strongheart, and sells for \$19.95.

Or if home decor is more in the air with your friends and family, perhaps something to catch the air would be in order... maybe



a rainbow windsock or flag would suit their fancy. **Cliff's Variety** (479 Castro Street) offers nylon rainbow windsocks for \$8, or thread versions for \$12. Rainbow flags are available in 12 sizes, from a little four-by-six-inch model (\$2) to the king-size 5-by-8-foot model, which sells for \$42, including a wooden staff from which to hang it.

Who would have thought the air presented so many possibilities for holiday gift-giving? Just don't "blow it" by waiting until the last minute! ▼

Gift of fire

◀ previous page

turne, from Rodeo.

Rising Star Records also has Francesconi's 1998 Desire Calendar. To order the calendar or get on the mailing list, write them at 52 Executive Park South, Suite 5203, Atlanta, GA 30329. The calendar costs \$14.95 + \$3 shipping and handling.

If it's erotica that gets you on fire, a recently published book, *I Am My Lover: Women Pleasure Themselves* (Down There Press, \$25), edited by sex educator Joani Blank, might be just the thing. It presents 12 attractive and courageous women, who allow their pleasure in arousal to be seen through the art of six profession-

al photographers. These intimate portraits - 120 black and white photos in all - capture a powerfully candid range of emotion, while the subject's words reveal their intimate thoughts, recollections, fantasies, and feelings about self-sexuality.

Blank founded Down There Press in 1975 and Good Vibrations in 1977. The Press is the country's only independent publisher of sexual health books for adults and children and has a list of 12 titles distributed through bookstores, catalogs, and the Internet. To preview *I Am My Lover*, visit their web site at <http://www.goodvibes.com/dtp/dtp.html>. To order directly, call toll free (800) 289-8423 or write 938 Howard Street #101, San Francisco, CA 94103. Postpaid price is \$29.50.

Cooking with fire

Switching topics ... for a spicy shopping experience, there's a new store in town that specializes in gourmet foods and fine gifts with a chili pepper theme; the gay-owned **San Francisco Chili Traders** opened for business last month. Retail items include a select collection of more than 400 varieties of hot sauces and salsa.

Michael J. Golujich, Jr., general manager, said popular hot sauces include the exclusive Pain Is Good line and products from Dave's Gourmet. Other specialties in stock are spiced pickles, flavored pastas, and a wide variety of oils, vinegars, marinades, mustards, mixes, and pods, including Peruvian aji and New Mexican green chilies.

The chili emporium also car-

ries gifts with a chili pepper motif, including fused glass, Limoges boxes, and handmade jewelry. Books, posters, clothing, gift wrap, ornaments, and other unique gift items await the chili pepper aficionado.

San Francisco Chili Traders is wholly owned and operated by A&L Design Studio, Inc.; Dr. Phillip D.K. Lee is president of the company, and Albert J. Abeyta serves as vice president.

The store is located in St. Francis Place, 333 Third Street, at Folson, Mezzanine Level. Through the holidays, hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For information, call (415) 777-1160, or e-mail: SFChile@aol.com. ▼

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YANKEE CLIPPER TRAVEL

Water you doing for Christmas?

by Mary Richards

Living on a coast has its own special joys, especially around the holidays when the water surrounding us brings exceptional opportunities to celebrate the season.

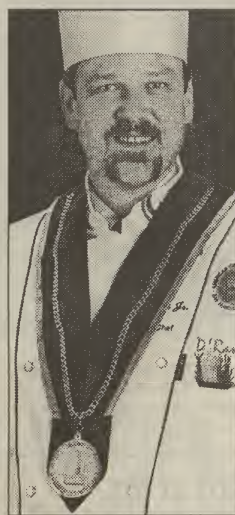
Take, for instance, views of the city, which we often take for granted. It's difficult to view the city when you're actually in it, but with a little imagination (and a sense of adventure), the views are there for the asking — and, even better, for the giving and sharing.

Just pick a clear night after work or on the weekend, bring your special someone to the left of the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street, and then hop on the Alameda/Oakland ferry (\$16 round trip). The minute the boat pulls away from the dock, San Francisco becomes one huge Christmas decoration. As it unfolds before the two of you, the Hyatt Regency, Embarcadero Center, Transamerica Pyramid, and all the twinkling lights of the city combine to make the best Christmas present anyone could wish for.

This ferry, of course, serves drinks, so belly up to the bar for your favorite cocktail, and take a walk on the bridge. If it's a cool night, hats and scarves are recommended, so you can get the full effect of that bracing salt air. Passing under the Bay Bridge is exciting, but looking back at the city with the bejeweled bridge in the foreground has to be one of the great sights this country has to offer.

No adventure is complete without a destination, and yours is Jack London Square, where they not only decorate their waterfront for the holidays, but the boats that moor there as well. The best spot to visit is the tiny **First and Last Chance Saloon**, which has been a bar since 1883, is now a historical landmark, and showcases a fascinating collection of Jack London memorabilia. Call for ferry information at (510) 522-3300.

To combine exercise with your waterfront experience, the **Kristi Yamaguchi ice rink**, right at the Embarcadero Center, offers outdoor 90-minute skating sessions (\$6) through February 16, 1998. Here's the best place to bring a great skater to show off (or an



Chef Allan Brown.

ambitious beginner to learn how to become a great skater), and have lots of fun doing it. They have a skating school, group rates are available, and they're open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, rain or shine. For those who want to ring out the old year or start off the new year in style, the entire rink can be reserved for private parties (including skate rental) for a mere \$1,200-\$1,500.

There's an unconfirmed rumor that the rink will soon be offering Karaoke nights, where non-skating friends can serenade their more physically coordinated buddies whilst they whirl around the rink. Sounds like a San Francisco-style idea that needs some dressing up from our drag queens. Call for your skating experience at (415) 956-2688.

(San Francisco used to have an old ice-skating rink installed at Union Square, but that has evaporated like the snows of yesterday. However, no friend of Dorothy who happens to be in that vicinity during the holidays should miss the fabulous showgirls that adorn the Saks Fifth Avenue windows. These hand-crafted icons, a collaboration between Saks and a company called Spaeth, come away with first prize in window decoration this year.

San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Beach, New York, and Washington, DC are represented by sequined and feathered divas, adorned with headdresses reminiscent of *Beach Blanket Babylon* beauties. Kiddies obviously enjoy them, but only the real queen in us all can relate to getting "dolled up" like these ladies. To keep with our watery theme here, you can stop inside Saks and take a look at (and sniff of) their extensive collection of *eau de cologne*.

Castro things

Any discussion of water-based offerings would be incomplete without mentioning water-based lubricants. They are available in abundance (flavored and non-flavored) at **Jaguar Adult Books** at 4057 18th Street. The vast collection of more than a dozen lubes start at \$9.50 for a nine-ounce bottle; silicone-based (but still water-soluble) lubes are more expensive, at \$18 for a six-ounce bottle.

Around the corner and up the street, **Friendly Spirits** at 572 Castro Street has a selection of *l'eau de vie* (literally, "waters of life"), which are fruit-flavored brandies so dry that they may literally leave a first-time drinker breathless. They are available in cherry, pear, and raspberry at \$23.99 per 375 ml bottle. *l'eau de vie* — imported, unlike the other flavors, which are produced in Alameda — is \$21.99. (Call 864-2273 for more information about Friendly Spirits' many products.)

After a day of shopping, or an evening on the Bay, there's no better place to rest up and reminisce about the sights you enjoyed than at **D'Range**, the newest restaurant, catering facility, and deli in the Castro. Ryan's occupied this space for years, and the site has been happily renovated by owner and executive chef Allan Brown, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, with assistance from sous chef Brian Way.

Possibly because Brown was the executive sous chef at Tiburon's Corinthian Yacht Club, D'Range offers a plethora of tasty and unusual goodies from the sea, including Soba seafood (lobster, periwinkles, scallops, and clams in a ginger/sake appetizer) and Sautéed Calamari stuffed with Shrimp Mousseline on Diablo

next page ►

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HOLIDAY ELEMENTS

Give them the earth!

by Eric M. Rose

Although few things are taken for granted as much as the element of earth, it yields up a surprising variety of holiday gift ideas. Precious metals and stones, clay and ceramics, petroleum-based fabrics, crystal, oils, and plants — all of these are gifts from ground. While few are dirt cheap, you can safely let your gift-buying imagination fly while keeping your feet firmly on the ground. Perhaps best of all, you can gather these items from the four corners of the earth without even leaving the Castro.

At the top of the list are everybody's favorite Christmas colors, silver and gold. And for the best in gold and silver jewelry, check out

Thanks to the wonders of modern science, there are polyester and nylon lingerie gifts to satisfy even the dirtiest of minds from **Romantasy** at 2191 Market Street. This shop also has an elegant polyester chemise chiffon with lace overlay by designer Flora Nikrooz (\$132.95), and a whole line of silk two-piece gossamer chemise and tap pant sets (\$31.50). Or check out their 100% nylon full-fashion fetish stockings (\$19.95), and silk gowns in Christmas colors (\$34.95-\$52.95) along with any corsets, garters, thong panties, or feather boas that might tickle your loved one's fancy, with all evening wear ranging from small to voluptuous sizes (1X to 5X).

For gifts from faraway lands, look no farther than **La Puerta** at

\$600). Art Options, which shares the same space, features clay maryjane bowls with real cannabis leaves glazed into them (\$55), and delicate hollow ceramic orbs painted with sky and clouds by Don Jones (\$90), as well as a lovely selection of cement and glass boxes and menorahs (\$30-\$45) by Aaron Rosenberg.

Earthtones at 2323 Market Street has a cute collection of Viennese bronze frogs, rabbits and cats playing instruments (\$49.95), as well as a knickknack of Betsy Ross sewing the nation's first gay flag (\$35). They also have an extensive collection of Polish crystal, with a set of champagne flutes with twisted-rope stems (\$45), and a set of pilsner glasses (\$25).

The **Gay and Lesbian Sierra Club** offers gifts for the more ad-

venturous types. A one-year membership (\$35) entitles one to join in any of the club's many outings. For a complete listing of upcoming events and membership information, call (415) 281-5666.

A less exerting but no less exciting gift is a gift certificate for an excursion to the **Baby Bear's House Bed and Breakfast** at 1424 Page Street. They have weekend dinner and accommodation packages starting at \$220. Located on the Panhandle, this gay establishment is housed in an 1892 restored Victorian with a mixture of antique and period pieces,

crystal chandeliers, and fireplaces in the dining room and parlors.

For a gift that expresses the true meaning of Christmas, consider making a donation to the **National AIDS Memorial Grove**. Just send your gift to the office at 856 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, 94117, including the name and address of the person on whose behalf you're making the donation. In exchange, they'll send out a thank you holiday card to your friend. Your donation will go towards the completion of this 15-acre parcel in the middle of Golden Gate Park. ▼



Sen. Dianne Feinstein speaks at the World AIDS Day remembrance at the National AIDS Memorial Grove.

the **Jerusalem Shoppe** at 313 Noe Street. This shop features an eclectic array of silver and gold bracelets for men and women (\$25-\$300) made by over 400 artists in the Bay Area and beyond. They also carry necklaces sporting real Roman coins (\$50-\$200) that are authenticated by an archaeologist. If that's not exotic enough for any gift-giver's fancy, they also have silver snake chain necklaces (\$135 and up) made from an ancient Indian design passed down for over 400 years.

Or give a gift of the earth's bounty with a bottle of wine from the **Castro Village Winery** at 4121 19th Street. There you'll find wines from California and around the world, including an intoxicating selection of rare wines, ranging in price from a few bucks all the way up to \$275. They also have several collector's edition wines carrying the names and images of Barbara Streisand, Frank Sinatra, I Love Lucy, and the ever-popular Marilyn Merlot (\$19.99).

Bredwell-Myers Florists, on 4359 18th Street, can put together a basket or bouquet of holiday cheer (\$25 and up). They can even deliver it for you for a very modest fee.

329 Noe Street. This lesbian-owned and -operated establishment has a beautiful selection of exotic goods from Mexico, Morocco, Columbia, Eastern Europe, India, and the Himalayas. For a priceless gift that won't cost a fortune, check out their replicas of Nariño Indian artifacts imported from Columbia (\$45-\$80) featuring fertility symbols and human statues, as well as clay masks (\$40-\$78). They also have a variety of shapes and sizes of clay pots from Morelia and Guadalajara, Mexico (\$45-\$200).

Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery at 552A Noe Street also offers the gift of art, with gift certificates for ceramics classes (\$125-\$200). Classes are taught by the local artists whose work is on display (\$10-\$200) at this non-profit co-op, including locally well-known artists Bonita Kohn and Charles Belgrade.

In Hayes Valley, there are **Images: A Gallery and Art Options** at 372 Hayes Street. Images features a wonderful selection of high-quality, affordably priced paintings by local artists, and is currently featuring a series of San Francisco-inspired original oil paintings by John Charnin (\$300-

Brunch is served from 11 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and the restaurant will celebrate the holidays with vegan or omnivore prix-fixe dinners, on Christmas Eve (\$45) and New Year's Eve (\$55, including champagne accompanying the first course). D'Range's deli is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Customers can call ahead at 621-6131 for restaurant reservations or takeout.

However you celebrate this season, we wish you a merry and safe holiday, filled with joy and the company of close ones. ▼

Water

◀ previous page

Sauce. However, even those people who avoid *fruits de mer* will be pleased to know that Brown is also a master of more earthbound treats. Furthermore, approximately 25% of the menu is vegan, which will be welcomed by the politically correct gourmets among us.

A menu featuring affordable entrees in the range of \$9 to \$20 features cuisine from Asia and the Pacific, as well as Classical European and Southwest delicacies.

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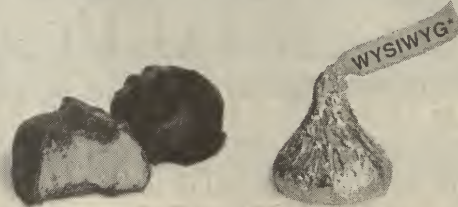
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NoCal Metropolitan Community Churches celebrate Christmas

by Vicky Kolakowski

Metropolitan Community Churches throughout northern California will host a variety of services and activities to celebrate the Christmas season, with the widest range of Christmas activities to be held in the Castro. The highlight of the holiday season at the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will be a series of special Christmas Eve candlelight services and a Christmas Day service and dinner.

MCC-SF will hold its annual Christmas Eve candlelight service, "A Star Shines Over the Castro," at 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m. This service always has lots of special music and holiday cheer. The Christmas Day worship service will begin at 11 a.m., and will be followed at noon by a community dinner open to everyone.

"This holiday season, the star which shines over the Castro reflects the people in our community," said the Reverend Jim Mitulski, senior pastor of MCC of San Francisco. "We are proud of the many who, through their actions, demonstrate the highest levels of compassion, caring and

love for their partners, their neighbors and their community."

In the days before Christmas, MCC-SF will present a series of activities in keeping with these themes, including the sale of Christmas trees, special meals for those in need, and a "Giving Tree" for those least likely to receive gifts this Christmas.

The church is operating the only Christmas tree lot this year in the Castro. It is located at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy parking lot, at Collingwood and 19th Street. Proceeds from the sale of the trees will benefit the church and the Milk School.

The church has operated a volunteer-run meal program called "Simply Supper" for those in need. These meals were distributed over the past several Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. The Wednesday series will include a special Christmas Eve event, with gifts from the "Giving Tree" for those who otherwise might not receive gifts. Anyone interested in contributing gifts to the "tree" should bring wrapped gifts to the church before Monday, December 22. MCC of San Francisco is located at 150 Eureka Street, between 18th and 19th Street in the Castro. Call (415) 863-4434 for more details.

Golden Gate and elsewhere

Elsewhere in San Francisco, Golden Gate MCC will hold a Christmas Eve worship service at 7 p.m., with the Reverend Sharna Sutherin preaching. They will also hold a Christmas Day worship service at 10:30 a.m., with the Reverend Alan Eddington preaching. The Christmas Day worship service will be followed by a potluck meal.

Golden Gate MCC meets at 1508 Church Street near 27th Avenue. The church phone number is (415) 642-0294.

In the East Bay, New Life MCC in Berkeley will be holding its annual "Candlelight, Carols and Communion" Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. The service will primarily be a series of carols

sung by the congregation. New Life MCC worships at 1823 9th Street, at Hearst, in Berkeley. For more information, call (510) 843-9355.

MCC of Greater Hayward will hold a Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. at 100 Hacienda in San Lorenzo. Its number is (510) 481-9720.

MCC of a New Vision in Walnut Creek will not hold a separate Christmas service, but will have a special potluck and gift exchange after the worship services on Sunday, December 21. It meets at 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, and its phone number is (510) 283-2238.

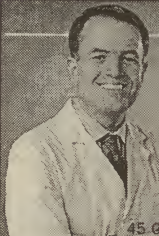
In the South Bay, MCC of San Jose will hold a "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" at 10:30 p.m. They meet at 65 South 7th Street in San Jose, between Santa Clara and San Jose State University. The church number is (408) 279-2711.

In Santa Cruz, Lavender Road MCC will be holding a Christmas Eve Service at 9 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should call (408) 459-8442 for the exact location.

In the North Bay, New Hope! MCC will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. at its new location at 855 7th Street, at the corner of Beaver in Santa Rosa. The church number is (707) 526-4673.

MCC of the Redwood Empire in Guerneville will hold a service Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. Entitled "Christmas Eve Carols, Candlelight and Communion," the service will honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, and all are invited to bring an image of Mary from diverse backgrounds for the service. They meet at 14520 Armstrong Woods Road in Guerneville. For more information, call (707) 869-0552.

In Sacramento, Cathedral of Promise MCC is having two services on Christmas Eve at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento. The first service will be at 8 p.m., featuring the MCC Mass Choir. The second service will be a candlelight service at 11 p.m., with the Reverend Elder Freda Smith presiding. Their number is (916) 364-4325. ▼



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St. Agnes Catholics invite gays to Christmas services

by Cynthia Laird

St. Agnes Parish, an urban community rich in the diversity of young and old, straight and gay, married, single, and divorced, invites inactive Catholics and other interested people to "come and see how we worship together and strive to live the Gospel call to love in our daily lives" during the holiday season.

Parishioners kicked off a series of religious services to which the lesbian and gay community were specifically invited, with an advent reconciliation service Tuesday,

December 16.

Future services include the "Birth of the Lord (Christmas) Children's Mass" on Wednesday, December 24 at 5 p.m.; the "Birth of the Lord (Christmas Celebration)" carols with choir and brass at 10 p.m.; and the Christmas Day celebration Thursday, December 25 at 8:30 and 10 a.m. There is no 6 p.m. Mass.

All services will be held at 1025 Masonic Avenue, between Page and Oak streets. Parking is available at the Oak Street church parking lot and John Adams Community Center. For more information, call (415) 487-8560. ▼



MCC's Troy Perry meets with Archbishop Tutu in South Africa

Religious leaders discuss gay, lesbian issues

by Vicky Kolakowski

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, moderator and founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), met with Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Johannesburg, South Africa on Friday, December 12 for a wide-ranging discussion of human rights issues.

During the meeting, Perry thanked Tutu for his leadership in ensuring inclusion of protections on the basis of sexual orientation in the new South African constitution. Perry shared how this accomplishment has helped to mobilize gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the United States to seek protections from Congress, including laws that would ensure their basic rights to work for a living without the fear

of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Both Tutu and Perry discussed the roles that religion plays in the ongoing debates around sexual orientation. Tutu noted that religious fundamentalists have questioned the right of the government to add sexual orientation to the South African constitution, and that they want simple answers to life's hard questions.

"Some people always try to take the Bible literally and legalistically," Tutu said. "Quoting the Bible is not enough."

"Parents must love their children," Tutu added. "It is a shame that fathers still teach their sons not to cry as though that would make them seem like a woman. Fathers teach their sons not to have real feelings. Every human being should rejoice and celebrate both our masculine and feminine sides."



Rev. Troy Perry and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Perry and Tutu reviewed a range of other human rights issues, including their common opposition to the death penalty. Tutu also discussed his work as chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will conclude its work in June, 1998. At that time, Tutu will become a visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Perry extended an invitation for Tutu to address the 1999 General Conference and World Jubilee of the UFMCC in Los Angeles, at

which the denomination will dedicate its new \$5 million UFMCC World Center headquarters complex. Tutu indicated that his residence in the United States at that time makes it more likely that he would be able to accept the invitation.

Others in attendance for the meeting included Tutu's wife, Leah; Perry's spouse, Phillip DeBleck; and the Reverend Andre Muller, UFMCC area coordinator for South Africa. ▼

Gay Catholics at Georgetown U.

by Bob Roehr

I feel like a gay child with homophobic parents," said John J. McNeil in describing his relationship with the Catholic Church. "This is the first time in 25 years I've been able to speak at a podium such as this."

The forum was "Bridging the Gap: A Theological Debate about Homosexuality and Catholicism," held on the campus of Georgetown University on December 6. It was sponsored by New Ways Ministry and three campus groups.

The very fact of the event had prompted strong objections from Washington's Cardinal James A. Hickey. "The Church's teaching will not receive a fair hearing," he charged in the archdiocese's newspaper.

The Jesuit-run university trod a fine line in allowing it to take place. It pointed out that the university *per se* did not sponsor the event; student organizations did. It balanced promoting "the teaching of the Catholic Church on all issues, including human sexuality" with "the free exchange of ideas [that] is essential to our academic mission."

McNeil's "homecoming" was the emotional core of the event for most of the 300-plus who filled the hall to capacity. The 72-year-old former priest and gay psychotherapist recounted, "In 1977, the Vatican ordered me to silence. I was not allowed to speak publicly as a Jesuit for almost ten years. I could not appear on a panel like this. I could not write articles. I could not speak to the media. Finally, I was ordered to give up all ministry to gays and lesbians. And when I could not in conscience fulfill that order, the Vatican ordered me to be dismissed from the Society of Jesus."

He criticized Church policy

that absolves homosexual encounters of the "boy-was-I-drunk-last-night" variety while it condemns longterm committed relationships. He concluded that the Church actually "promoted promiscuous sex" through its position.

McNeil turned to Genesis 2, which says it is not good to live alone, every human needs a companion of his or her own kind. The Church acknowledged this in blessing marriages without the possibility of children. "To continue to use the heterosexual norm as the universal norm is obviously wrong," he concluded.

Richard McCormick, SJ, a theologian at Notre Dame University, argued what is known as the revisionist position. He began by quoting from a 1980 pastoral letter of Archbishop Quinn: "Homosexuality is enormously complex in its origins, its psychological vectors, medical ramifications, societal norms, and in the application of valid moral principles to individual cases."

He praised marriage as the context for full sexual expression and to "escape the narcissism that affects all of us." But he asked, "What about those who can't?" those who are homosexual. "There are times when we should not urge on people things we know they can't do. ... We must provide a pastoral alternative."

James P. Hanigan represented the magisterial, or more traditional, wing of the church. He is a former Jesuit, now married, and professor of theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The Cardinal's invective had given him "considerable pause" about participating, but he concluded that all views "have to be given social space. ... We can and we must grow to see more than our fathers and mothers in the faith saw, but we dare not grow to see less." ▼



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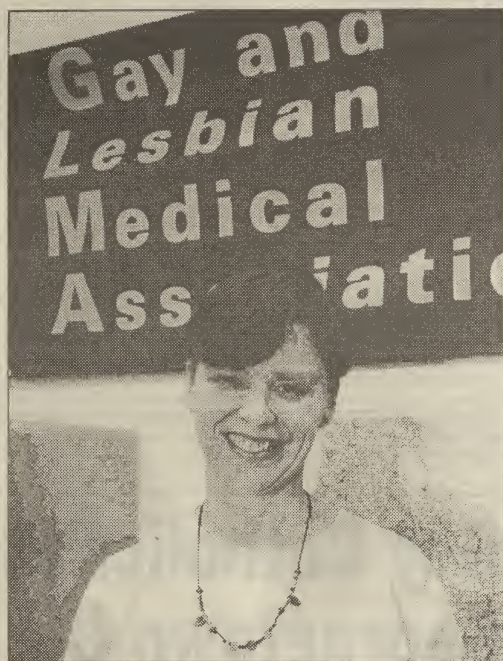
GLMA hires first full-time director for lesbian health fund

by Cynthia Laird

Underscoring its commitment to advancing the field of lesbian health, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) has hired its first full-time national advocate: Grace Flannery, a longtime executive in the non-profit sector, joined San Francisco-based GLMA December 1 as director of the Lesbian Health Fund (LHF), which is the only dedicated source of funding for lesbian health research in the world.

Flannery will oversee all aspects of LHF, and one of her primary objectives will be to increase the funding LHF makes available to researchers. She brings more than 16 years of fundraising experience to the new position; she has served as program director for the Horizons Foundation and endowment director for the Vanguard Public Foundation.

"GLMA's ability to create this position is a significant marker in the historical development of the field of lesbian health," said Dr. Michael Horberg, GLMA president and a Bay Area internist. "Grace Flannery's skills and expertise will allow GLMA to increase the funds available for lesbian health research, as well as in-



Grace Flannery: "My goal for this work is to increase the capacity of the LHF so that it will be able to fund significant research projects."

crease awareness among researchers of this funding source."

Founded in 1992, the LHF has awarded more than \$158,000 to 22 research projects throughout the country. LHF-funded researchers are currently addressing a wide range of lesbian health issues, such as how to improve lesbian and bisexual women's access to gynecological services, alternative insemination methods used by lesbians, and risk factors for osteoporosis and bone density in lesbians. LHF has also funded projects to determine the best methods to educate health workers about lesbian health needs and to teach lesbians themselves about lesbian health issues.

"My goal for this work is to increase the capacity of the LHF so that it will be able to fund significant research projects, and as a result, impact mainstream health providers," Flannery told the B.A.R., adding that plans for new fundraising initiatives are in progress. "The LHF has awarded \$158,000 in grants, and that's been possible primarily through lesbian health care practitioners. They will remain the base of support, and we'll work to reach out to the community as a whole."

Marj Plumb, a longtime lesbian health advocate and GLMA's public policy director, said the new position is long overdue. "For

all underserved communities, research is the cornerstone of sound medical practices and public health policy. This position will play a significant role in increasing funding for research, opening publishing doors, and supporting the efforts of lesbian health activists throughout the country."

Ben Schatz, GLMA's executive director, pointed out that Flannery's hiring is the latest representation of the national association's growth and expanded efforts to improve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health services. Other work this year includes the establishment of a public policy department, the launch of the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*, and the world's first peer-reviewer, multi-disciplinary journal dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health, in March. The association has also experienced a four-fold increase in membership over the last five years, with over 2,000 queer physicians, medical students, and their supporters now belonging to the organization. ▼

For more information about the Lesbian Health Fund or GLMA, call (415) 255-4547, or check out their web site: www.glma.org. The e-mail address is gaylesmed@aol.com.

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City Attorney investigates HPPC over alleged Brown Act violation

by Cynthia Laird

The City Attorney's Office is investigating whether actions taken at the December 11 HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) meeting may have violated the state's Ralph M. Brown Act, following an inquiry from the *Bay Area Reporter*. At the meeting, the council held a lengthy discussion about charges in anonymous letters made against the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP). After nearly two hours of discussion, the council made two motions and voted on them, even though the entire matter was under the public comment portion of the agenda and therefore could not be acted on by the council if the body falls under the purview of the state's open meeting law.

The motions approved by the council were 1) to ask the AIDS Office to have councilmembers formally participate in monitoring of the local programs of the NTFAP, and 2) for the HPPC to conduct a needs assessment with the assistance of the AIDS Office, to determine needs of HIV prevention services for gay men of color.

While it has not yet been determined whether the HPPC has to abide by the state's open meeting law, Assistant City Attorney Paula Jesson told the *B.A.R.* she has requested all documents relating to the formation of the planning council, which was established several years ago under a contractual agreement between the city and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The *B.A.R.* notified the city attorney's office Friday, December 12 that it felt the HPPC had acted illegally; under the Brown Act, items brought up during public comment cannot be acted upon; they must either be referred to a committee or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting. Additionally, the council cannot discuss items under public comment, they can only ask clarifying questions, according to the Brown Act.

If it is determined that the HPPC does have to follow the Brown Act, the actions taken at the December 11 meeting would have to be rescinded, and the matter would have to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. Unlike the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council, which has authority to make binding decisions, the HPPC is advisory only; however, the Brown Act does apply to advisory bodies created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action.

No info, false info

HPPC co-chair Ellen Goldstein did not return *B.A.R.* phone calls seeking information about the council's potentially illegal actions. Norm Nickens, assistant director of the AIDS Office, attended last week's meeting along with Barry Brinkley, the city's new director of HIV prevention. As of December 16, Nickens told the *B.A.R.* that the matter will be put off until the HPPC's January 8 meeting, at which time a formal



Mario Solis-Marich, chief executive officer of the NTFAP.

decision is expected from the city attorney's office.

NTFAP administrators questioned other actions by the HPPC last week relating to distribution of undated, unsigned anonymous letters that were critical of the NTFAP and the Native American AIDS Program (NAAP) it oversees. The letters were distributed to planning council members with a cover letter on Department of Public Health (DPH) letterhead. Attorney Geoff Kors, representing the task force, told the *B.A.R.* that move was potentially libelous. "It was giving the impression the city is sending out false information," Kors said, adding that some of the statements in the letters are blatantly false. "[HPPC member] Maria Rinaldi pointed out false information in the letters at the meeting."

In a move that seemed to confirm that, Nickens sent out a notice December 10 regarding the anonymous letters that stated in part, "The fact that these letters were forwarded by San Francisco Department of Public Health staff should not in any way be taken as an endorsement of the information provided in the letters, or as evidence of any position regarding the matter by DPH."

Mario Solis-Marich, chief executive officer of the NTFAP, told the *B.A.R.* he's glad the city attorney's office will be looking into the actions of the HPPC. "The HPPC is a community body, and it is also accountable," he said. "I'd like to reiterate that it's extremely important that organizations be held accountable, but it's also important that we, as a community, understand if people make charges, there is a proper way, and people need to take responsibility for them by signing letters," Solis-Marich said.

At last week's meeting, Solis-Marich took issue with the way the HPPC handled the matter. "We were not informed the letter was received by the HPPC or distributed," he said, adding that the NTFAP has just been audited by the DPH, and the information about the audit is public.

Among other things, one of

the anonymous letters alleges low units of service provided by the NAAP, and other concerns with the program. Solis-Marich told the HPPC that they are already providing more units of service than their contracts call for. ▼

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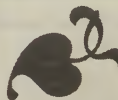
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HIV-positive man dies after organ denial

by Jeff Getty, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

In the United States, people infected with HIV are not likely to be allowed to have whole organ transplants. People with HIV are often left to die, despite the fact that several well-publicized operations during the 1980s have shown HIV+ organ transplantation to be safe and effective. Institutionalized prejudice toward people with HIV and ignorance about how AIDS progresses have led to rules that exclude HIV+ persons from organ transplant waiting lists. Only recently, new avenues of hope have opened for HIV+ would-be organ recipients. The nebulous nature of the rules and conditions involved in organ transplant decisions is well illustrated in the tragic case of

Gary Bent.

Bent was a 31-year-old New Yorker who worked for Chase Manhattan Bank. He was an African-American who was born in Jamaica, grew up in Wisconsin, received two degrees from the University of Miami, and was on the fast track at Chase in the executive development program. His partner was Steve Folese, a native New Yorker who worked in the music industry.

Gary weighed 190 pounds and was strong and handsome. He was in excellent health and presumably HIV-negative. He had no previous liver or major health problems. On October 2, 1997, Gary felt like he might have a flu. He went to his doctor the

next day. His eyes began to yellow, and he could not eat or keep down food. His doctor diagnosed hepatitis. Bent went home and seemed to improve a bit over the next two days.

On October 7, when Bent became very confused and forgetful, Folese brought him to the emergency room at St. Vincent's in New York. Later, his condition improved a bit and he was sent home. By the next day, he had grown much worse, and Folese called his doctor. The nurse answered and said that the doctor would call right away. After Folese waited for four hours and heard nothing, he finally called the doctor again that evening.

The doctor was angry and

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Ginny Knuth
1934 - 1997**

The gender community mourns the passing of Ginny Knuth, a dedicated



volunteer active in many groups. Ginny died of natural causes on November 23, at home in San Francisco after a lengthy illness.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1934, Ginny spent time in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco, where a succession of friends introduced her to the gay community. Ginny's ties with the gay community in San Francisco led to years of involvement with the Imperial Court, involvement in GLBT events, and the remarkably harmonious relationship that the San Francisco gender community enjoys with the local gay and lesbian groups. Sadly, many of Ginny's gay friends were lost to AIDS, and she gave much of herself in the battle against HIV.

Ginny's contributions are well-summarized in the 1994 Trinity Awards Ceremony program: "Ginny Knuth: a long-standing advisor to and advocate of the transgender community. Ginny has contributed notably in her association with the Education TV Channel

(ETVC) of San Francisco. Through the years, she has contributed a huge amount to that organization's growth. She initiated and strengthened the bonds between the transgendered community and the gay-lesbian community in San Francisco. In all her efforts and involvements through the years, we appreciate that her prime motive has been her great love for us all."

We especially wish to extend our sympathy and condolences to Nancy Ann Martine, who was faithfully devoted to Ginny until the end.

**Jon Patrick Rollins
March 13, 1954 - Dec. 6, 1997**

Jon Patrick Rollins, director of music at St. Francis Lutheran Church and former director of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, died in Palm Springs of AIDS-related causes. Jon had moved to Palm Springs from San Francisco in September.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Jon began his organ studies while in junior high school when he began playing for services in local churches. Upon graduation from college, he moved to New York City and, for the next 16 years, developed a music career, including a stint as assistant organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

In 1990, Jon accepted the position of director of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and moved to Oregon. In 1993, he came to San Francisco and St. Francis Lutheran Church. He also joined the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Preceded in death by his mother, Jon is survived by his father, John H. Rollins of Little Rock, who was with him until a few days before he died, and three aunts. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m., at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street (at Market), with members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus participating.

**Thomas Michael Young
April 16, 1954 - Dec. 9, 1997**

Tam died at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco surrounded by friends. Originally from Boise, Idaho, he had been a San Francisco resident for 16 years. Many people knew him from his longtime work with the computer-consulting firm he helped found; others from his history of community activism; others from his involvement with a number of San Francisco synagogues.

Tam is survived by his partner, Steve Mann; his parents, Walter Young and Betty Young; grandmother, Maude O'Neil; other loving family; and by a circle of devoted friends, whose help during his illness is greatly appreciated. He is being returned to Boise for interment, where his Boise circle will gather. San Francisco friends will gather at his residence on Sunday afternoon, December 21. For information, phone Steve at 243-0153 or 864-6839.

**JOSEPH BELLIER
DE VILLENTROY, III**

J.B. DEVILLENTROY passed away on Thursday, November 20, 1997 at St. Mary's Hospital/San Francisco after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Per his wishes, his ashes were scattered at sea on Tuesday, November 25 in a small, private ceremony conducted by the Neptune Society.

A native of New Orleans, J.B. came to San Francisco in 1959 after serving in the U.S. Air Force. Once here, he actively engaged in many pursuits including fashion modeling, bar owner (J.B.'s Place and The Eagle Creek Saloon) and business partner (The Pet Stop in the Haight). In recent years, he was a well-known bartender at the Special, Club Deluxe and Trax Bar.

J.B. was a very private albeit active community booster for Gay and Lesbian rights and was a personal caregiver for over two dozen beloved friends. His rapier wit and curmudgeonly advice was both a delight and a decree for his many bar patrons and personal fans.

Sunday nights will never be the same again...

Preceded in death by his parents Joseph Bellier de Villenty, Jr. and Olga Garie de Villenty, J.B. is survived by his sisters Mrs. Carol A. Daigle and Mrs. Mary Lynn McShane, along with 4 nieces, 3 nephews, many wonderful friends and an army of devoted caregivers to whom the family wishes to express their deepest appreciation and gratitude.

Contributions to the AIDS Foundation, Project Open Hand or the American Cancer Society are welcomed.

A memorial party will be held at Trax Bar, 1437 Haight Street on Friday, December 19 from 7-9pm. Come hoist a toast to this remarkable SF legend, the likes of which shall not be seen again.

upset. Why hadn't he called sooner? Folese explained that he had, and the doctor blurted out that Folese must immediately call 911 for an ambulance. So Bent was once again on his way back to St. Vincent's Hospital. Folese still did not know that Bent had acute hepatitis, and his liver was being quickly destroyed.

At this point, Folese realized that things were not under control, and he began to become very aggressive with the medical personnel. "I knew I'd better start asking questions," Folese said. A CAT scan was performed only after hours of insistence by Bent's

been done in the preceding ten years. A 1989 study published in the journal *Transplantation* documented 25 HIV+ organ transplantations. The study, which was written by the eminent researcher Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, concluded that survival rates for HIV+ organ recipients were slightly shorter than for HIV- transplant patients. He also showed that AIDS-free time for HIV+ transplant patients was slightly shorter than non-transplant HIV+ hemophiliac controls. The study did not achieve statistical significance in terms of reduced survival rates for HIV+ transplant patients, and

about the Pittsburgh or California options. Folese and his friends called up all the various AIDS organizations and newsletters and eventually found out about the Pittsburgh study themselves. Folese was livid. He called local television reporters and demanded a meeting with top Mt. Sinai transplant doctors.

Later, at Sinai, Folese and Bent's family were taken into a small conference room to discuss the dilemma. "They never would have talked to me had I not called the TV station," Folese remembered. Seated around a small table with the same people who make

Why hadn't Mt. Sinai told Folese about Pittsburgh? Folese speculated that it was because Bent was black, gay, and HIV+. "They refused to see Bent as a unique and valuable individual, he was labeled as HIV-positive — and that is all they saw," reported Folese. At one point, a friend of Bent's heard a Sinai doctor say that they certainly would not waste a liver on such a patient.

In the small conference room Bent began to raise his voice, saying, "You can't answer this question, can you? Can you?" One Sinai surgeon was clearly agitated. He bristled as he said, "If you continue to talk to me in that tone of voice, I will ask you to leave the room!" The Sinai doctors said that it was not their fault that they did not know about Pittsburgh.

"They knew," remarked Folese, "and he [the Sinai doctor] was a disgusting human being."

Doctors at the Pittsburgh transplant center spoke with Folese and Bent's doctors. There

was some further delay, and then finally Pittsburgh flew in their patient transport team. Mt. Sinai officials did not want to give up the patient.

"They said that the move would kill Bent. Well, he was going to die anyway, so we went for it" Folese stated.

By Saturday morning, Bent was a resident at his last hospital. He was still in a coma, and his condition was worsening. It was suspected that his brain function was dying. There was no liver immediately available, and Bent was running out of time. But the Pittsburgh doctors refused to give up, and Folese and Bent's family were heartened and given new hope.

A few days passed, and it looked like Bent's liver was getting better. But his brain was not. A CAT scan revealed little or no function. It was decided to stop certain medications to see if Bent would begin to come out of the coma. He did not, and he died the following Thursday at 2:15 p.m. ▼

A trusted nurse talked Folese into signing a release to allow the hospital to test Bent's blood for HIV, and assured him that HIV was not an exclusion criterion for transplant operations. She promised him that others would come to his aid if this became a problem. She was either misinformed, or she lied.

assembled friends. It was determined that Bent needed a liver, and he was transferred to Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York.

On the way out the door at St. Vincent's, a trusted nurse talked Folese into signing a release to allow the hospital to test Bent's blood for HIV. Folese was not Bent's durable power of attorney, and never should have been asked to give permission for an HIV antibody test. When Folese asked the nurse if this would jeopardize Bent's chances to receive a liver transplant, the nurse assured him that HIV was not an exclusion criterion for transplant operations. She promised him that others would come to his aid if this became a problem. She was either misinformed, or she lied. No one from St. Vincent's would come to Folese and Bent's aid.

Sorry, liver's off

On Tuesday evening, Bent arrived at Mt. Sinai to begin evaluation for a liver transplant. All results were good, and a liver had been located. The liver was marginal, meaning that it would only be used for an immediately terminal patient. The liver came from an IV-using drug addict. To the desperate Folese, the liver seemed acceptable.

At this time, Bent was in a coma and Folese was calling all the shots. Bent's family was frantically trying to find flights to New York City. Hours went by, and still the operation was not taking place. Finally Folese was told that the organ was no longer available. Folese was astonished and pressed the issue. A short time after that, he was informed that the HIV test had come back positive. The doctors at Mt. Sinai said that they were sorry, and there was nothing more that could be done. Bent could not have a liver because he has HIV+.

Folese did not accept this rejection without a fight. He demanded to know why HIV-positive persons could not have transplants. A Sinai Doctor said that if Bent were given the immune suppression drugs to keep the organ from being rejected, these drugs would bring on full-blown AIDS. Although Bent was without AIDS symptoms, Folese was told that he would die of AIDS in a matter of months. Folese was told that for this reason, no transplants were ever done for people with HIV.

Actually, several transplants on HIV+ individuals had already

Starzl commented in the paper's discussion section that persons with HIV should not be excluded from organ transplantation.

At the time the study was conducted, there were no approved antiviral treatments for HIV disease. Starzl's patients were able to live longer lives with new organs while taking immune suppression drugs and not treating HIV. By the mid-1990s, there were numerous effective treatments for HIV. Yet UNOS and regional centers have continually cited this study as a reason for organ denial.

How immune suppressors work

Immune suppression agents such as Cyclosporin and its cousin drugs have unique mechanisms of action in relation to HIV disease. HIV attacks human helper T-cells during activation periods. Cyclosporin-like drugs also attack helper T-cells during activation. Some doctors and scientists have long wondered if cyclosporin might not actually help slow the progression of AIDS. ViRx, a California drug company, is studying this possibility as this paper is being written.

When patients receive transplants, the doses of immune suppression drugs are carefully calculated to achieve a desired drop in certain immune cell numbers. These drops are measured until the correct dose of drug is found. The dose is enough to maintain suppression so that the organ does not get rejected, but not so much that the patient is not able to fight off infections. This carefully induced immune dysfunction is very similar to the conditions inherent in the HIV-infected immune system. HIV patients and doctors monitor immune cell numbers monthly. Finding the correct dose of cyclosporin in a transplant situation is an extension of what is already routine procedure in HIV care.

Patients treating HIV effectively should not have to worry about full-blown AIDS or infections if cell numbers and suppression doses are closely monitored. This concept is currently in use as a treatment protocol at the University of Pittsburgh Transplant Center, and the University of California/San Francisco Medical Center.

Mt. Sinai pleads ignorance

At Mt. Sinai in New York, in violation of the 1968 Organ Transplant Act, Folese was never told

life and death decisions, Folese angrily pressed them to find out why he and Bent were never told about the Pittsburgh option. One doctor replied that Mt. Sinai doctors did not know that the protocol existed anywhere. Folese responded that that was totally unbelievable. They must have known. Mt. Sinai and Pittsburgh regularly traded organs and consulted on patients. These two hospitals were number one and number two in the ranking of large transplant centers.

HIV INFECTED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY

The University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and Mt. Zion Medical Center are seeking HIV positive patients greater than 18 years of age with CD4 counts less than or equal to 500 cells for participation in a research study. This study will evaluate potential drug interactions with recently FDA approved anti-cytomegalovirus agent. Financial compensation will be allocated for those patients who are enrolled in the study.

For information, please call (415) 476-0829

UCSF RESEARCHERS

at San Francisco General Hospital
are recruiting

HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE

This is a randomized study of a simplified and potent antiretroviral regimen for HIV positive subjects who are currently receiving protease inhibitor therapy.

Study requirements:

- T-cells greater than 200
- Stable combination therapy for 24 weeks
- One documented undetectable viral load within the past 3 months
- Treatment subjects will take a maximum of 4 pills per day to include 1592U89 and Combivir (AZT & 3TC)

Ultra-sensitive viral load results will be provided throughout this 48 week study.

For more information CALL
Joe Rebholz at (415) 476-9296 x310

Stuffing

by Jim Provenzano

found the conflict between Nike and Reebok demeaning ... but maybe the games on that level are no longer demeanable."

— Richard Lapchik, Director of the Center for Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University in Boston, commenting on the incident at the 1992 Olympic Games when basketball players who were paid to endorse Nike refused to accept the gold medal on a victory stand with Reebok's name on it.

Ah, the holidays, when sports and consumerism wed together, shipped via truckloads of plastic-wrapped sneakers constructed by starving Third World children, to get under your tree just in time to celebrate a season of giving.

In these days when any presumed harm-free gift can be ruined by merely glancing at the "Made in China by tortured Tibetan Monks" label, we turn to the ever-PC alternative of providing services to those whose friendship you treasure. Offer a Certificate of Exercise, in which you promise to work out with your pals. Make it a very personalized document with fun graphics, and they'll forgive the fact that you didn't spend a penny on it.

For the literary-inclined recipient, haul out the classics. That Joe Montana photo book is only ten bucks at Crown Superstore, and it's got some great shirtless pics of

the hunkiest of all 49ers.

George Plimpton, that wryly peripatetic man of sports and letters, once observed that the smaller the ball, the better the writing. Plimpton's own *Paper Lion* is a book that continues to delight three decades after its initial publication. He recently published a book about Truman Capote, which I would highly recommend for the non-athletic "persons" on your list. It's simply full of juicy gossip about the writer's life, all told verbatim by the nattering likes of high society matrons and other pals and hangers-on (who, in my previous life as a caterer-waiter, I regularly fought the thrill of just once spilling creme brulee on their tuxes and gowns!).

Plimpton, of course, made something of a career of participatory sports journalism, and his wonderfully penned recollections of his exploits—in baseball (*Out of My League*), golf (*The Bogey Man*), and hockey (*Open Net*)—all make for terrific reading.

For the sporty woman in your life, may I recommend a trip to Play It Again, Sports, on West Portal in San Francisco. They've got some very usable previously-owned sporting goods—everything from hockey sticks to gloves and bats—and also plenty of new swim goggles, swim suits, and other great stocking stuffers.

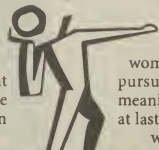
One of the new books available as a gift is *A Whole Other Ball*

Game: Women's Literature on Women's Sport, edited by Joli Sandoz (Noonday Press). Says Sandoz, the first woman track coach at Harvard, "Finding oneself through sport is a radical, difficult, and joyous step for a woman. ... Instead of listening to the more popular stories told through the years about sportswomen's proper place in and out of the gym," she continues, "some of us have simply written our own. Here we speak our experience. ... Here we voice the deep and abiding satisfactions of competitive sport: the bonds between sports-

women, and disciplined pursuit of goals at once meaningful and fleet. Here, at last, we can tell the truth: women play, we play hard and well, and we love it—the struggle, the skill and the game."

Adrienne Rich, Marge Piercy, Fannie Hurst, Maxine Kumin, Tess Gallagher, and Laurie Colwin are among the prominent lineup of contributors writing on sports as diverse as swimming, basketball, baseball, tug-of-war, golf, tennis, jogging, and skating.

For items in a more wacky form, go no further than the saccharine-sweet Disney catalog. We know some people take this global marketing scheme seriously, and think Disney is gay-friendly, but we know their true mission is simply world domination! Help out by buying some funny sporty



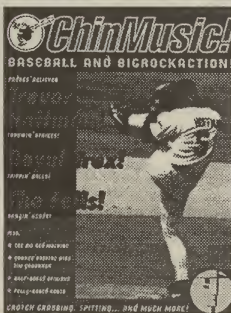
Sports Complex



Jocular humor and bad taste combine in one \$22.50 gift item!

underwear for the dyke Dad, kid, or gay parent in your life.

Zinesters may enjoy *Chin Music!*, a wacky mag about "baseball and big rock action!" Included are offbeat reviews of music (Beck, Gang of Four), interviews with low-grade rock stars about their love of baseball, and a dugout interview with hunky Trevor Hoffman of the San Diego



Padres. But the funniest is Jeudi Tabler's article about Padre Steve Finley's habitual crotch-grabbing, and her pastime of counting the number of grabs per at-bat. "What kind of balls would require such constant attention and care?" she ponders. What kind, indeed.

You can pick up *Chin Music!* at

Groove Records, which also has some of the wackiest soundtracks and albums ever! They've even got LPs of 49ers games! Imagine lying down with your equally sports-fanatical fellow, smooching to the sounds of "Hut! hut! hut!"

Groove is on Market at Octavia, across the street from the perpetually not-under-construction wreck of an old Victorian that will never be a community center because all you in-fighting SOBs care more about a rickety old building than a space for human rights. (And you thought I wouldn't get any snide opinionating in this week!)

But the best gift is a very unique tie I found years ago, which, although too late for this season, may inspire you to save for next year or an upcoming birthday. For the business dude who takes his lunch hour at the gym, the "Jockstrap Necktie" combines sophisticated bad taste with a jocular sense of humor. You can order it for \$22.50 from Chipp, Inc. in ever-cultured Manhattan, or visit them at 11 East 44th St. #501, NY NY 10017. They take phone, fax, and credit card orders if you call (212) 687-0850, or fax (212) 687-5048.

Enjoy the holidays, and make plans to sweat off all those cookies, the eggnog, and other artery-clogging joys of the season! ▼

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AMSTERDAM 1998

Run on tickets

by Faye Jenkins and Paul van Yperen

Whether you've been training all year and saving your money, or have booked your plane ticket, booked your hotel, bought your guidebook, and assumed you had nothing left to do to prepare your visit to Amsterdam, think again! Now available are the listings of the tickets available for events during the Gay Games. Hundreds of callers from all over the world ordered tickets the first two days from December 1, when the tickets became available. Like them, you can—and should—purchase tickets for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, plus a range of sports events including bodybuilding, figure-skating, and swimming.

If culture is what you're after, tickets are now available for the Storytelling Festival, the Choir Festival in the world-famous Concertgebouw, a visit at the Anne Frank House, and the Women's Festival. You can book your child's place at the crèche facilities, join a walking tour or a short boat trip, and guarantee your spot on the dancefloor at one of the many fabulous parties planned. You can find all the information on the Internet website of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998: www.gaygames.nl.

Tickets can be bought by fax or by telephone from Gay Games Ticket Center. From the United States, dial 1-31-20-4200-200 (remember, the time in Amsterdam is nine hours later than in San Francisco) or fax: 1-31-20-622-9011. A maximum of 2-4 tickets (depending of the event) per person can be ordered for each event. Visitors' passes—which include entrance to non-final events, public transportation, and tickets for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies—can be ordered from January 1. ▼

Ecuador approves gays, lets them have sex

by Mark Mardon

It's now okay to be gay on the equator. Or at least in Ecuador, it's cool to be queer.

After more than a decade of activism on the part of local gays and lesbians, the Ecuadorian government this month finally repealed a national sodomy law that threatened queers with up to eight years' imprisonment for having sex with each other. The law was used not only to criminalize same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults, but to harass, discriminate against, and persecute anyone queer.

"The recent repeal of the sodomy laws in Ecuador represents a great victory for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities in Ecuador," said Julie Dorf of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

"This is an historical success of the lesbian and gay community and of the democracy of our country," proclaimed Albin Cruz of the Ecuadorian Foundation of Actions and Education for the Promotion of Health (FEDAEPS). Back in 1994, his group had denounced the repression of sexual minorities in Ecuador before the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

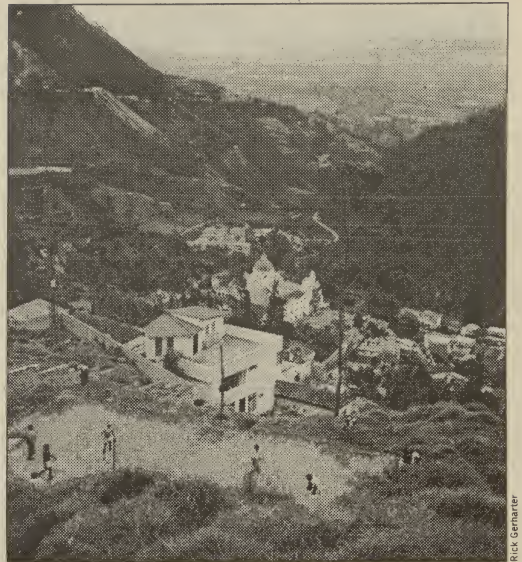
Several Ecuadorian queer groups took legal action against the sodomy law, having been pushed into action by police who last June raided the Abanicos Bar in town of Cuenca and arrested 14 gay men for "intention to commit a crime against morality," then proceeded to laugh, jeer, and leer as they let one detainee be raped twice by other inmates. Those outraged by the act included the Lesbian-Gay Ecuadorian

Andean Triangle Movement, the Lesbian-Gay Collective "En Directo," the gay group Tolerance, and the transgender group Coccinelli.

Meanwhile activists gathered nearly 1,500 signatures from people all over Ecuador, demanding the case be heard by the Constitutional Tribunal, which in time consented to look into the matter. In its wisdom, after wading through an ocean of acronyms and a mound of legal briefs, the Tribunal determined that the law penalizing sodomy was unconstitutional.

While Ecuador now joins the ranks of enlightened nations not actively punishing queer sex, a few of its sister Latin American nations continue to outlaw sodomy, including Chile, and Nicaragua.

"These are the last states in Latin America that still criminalize homosexual activity," said Mirka



Ecuador, where things just got sunnier for gays and lesbians.

Negrón, Regional Specialist at IGLHRC. "Let's hope [those other nefarious nations] pay attention to the news from Quito." ▼

For more info, contact IGLHRC at 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; phone (415) 255-8680.

Renters

◀ page 1

niors and people with AIDS aren't thrown out on the street during the city's rent crisis.

Ammiano, who formulated the legislation together with Supervisor Mabel Teng, assured supporters and critics alike that the moratorium meets the city's broadest needs by protecting people in the two populations least able to cope with the high cost and both physical and psychological duress caused by evictions.

Unmoved by Ammiano's humanitarianism, "Save Homeowners' Rights" activists reserved their compassion for realtors, property developers, and building owners. They worried the legislation would quash the dreams of would-be homeowners, and throw the real-estate industry into disarray.

Alternatively, opponents denounced the eviction moratorium as a government "taking" of their private property, in violation of their Constitutional

rights. Yet as Supervisor Jose Medina noted prior to the vote, the U.S. Supreme Court has specifically upheld the right of local governments to restrict tenant evictions.

"The legislation buys us some time until we can develop longterm solutions," said Medina, who noted that in the last few years, evictions in the Mission District have risen 400 percent

Ammiano gets penis-sucking prize

"The legislation represents a Solomonic solution to an intractable problem," said Supervisor Amos Brown. "It gives us time to cool off."

But landlord advocates at the meeting were anything but cool. They jeered and shook their fists at Supervisor Mabel Teng as she explained the need to protect the elderly and critically ill.

"She's a liar!" screamed one highly agitated young man as television news cameras zeroed in on his rage-contorted face. "She's not fair!"

Meanwhile, staffers at Supervi-

sor Leslie Katz's office received an anonymous call from one woman incensed at gay support for the legislation. "I'll never rent to gay white males in this city again!" she declared.

Ammiano (a gay white male) himself received an e-mail message from someone "congratulating" him, saying he had earned a 3rd Quarter award for "the number of penises sucked."

"It's a touchy issue," admitted Ammiano.

In drafting the measure, Ammiano and Teng wrangled over its inclusion of people with HIV and AIDS. Teng had wanted to rescue only seniors from eviction (as long as they have lived in their units for at least 10 years). After heavy lobbying by lesbian and gay activists, however, and with Ammiano holding steadfast to his position, Teng agreed to a compromise including both seniors and people with "catastrophic illnesses," such as AIDS and disabling HIV, who have lived in their unit for at least five years.

The debate over the moratori-

um highlighted a rift in San Francisco's Asian-American community, with large contingents of the population positioned on either side of the issue. The division makes clear that any minority group, not just gays and lesbians, can get to wrangling among themselves.

In fact, gays and lesbians maintained a low profile at the board meeting. While many people held placards declaring themselves to be on the side of either landlords or seniors, nobody held placards in support of people with HIV and AIDS. To a casual observer,

that made it seem as though PWAs were riding to victory on the coat-tails of seniors.

Whatever the appearance, the fact is the inclusive legislation is now awaiting review and action by Mayor Brown. He has indicated his support for the measure, and every indication is that he will sign it into law.

"The real work is still to come," said Ammiano. Between now and the time the moratorium expires, the city will need to work out an equitable plan safeguarding citizens from unfair evictions while respecting landlords' rights. ▼

ACLU

◀ page 1

mestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to spouses. Last month, the Human Rights Commission (HRC), which oversees implementation of the law, reported to the Board of Supervisors that over 5,000 companies have applied to the HRC for certification, and 91 percent are in compliance with the ordinance.

The ACLU had represented another company, PM&M Electric, Inc., in the second lawsuit that challenged the ordinance, and Wilken had joined that case with the ATA lawsuit. But just before she heard oral arguments, PM&M withdrew from the case.

Unlike the unknown PM&M, the company in this latest lawsuit, S.D. Myers, Inc. (SDMI), has had several city contracts and just last month was the lowest qualified bidder on a city contract for maintenance of electrical transformers. Court documents stated that SDMI's bid was rejected because of the company's refusal to provide domestic partner benefits for its unmarried employees. SDMI's headquarters is in Tallmadge, Ohio, and the company has offices in several cities, including Fremont. SDMI has approximately 400 employees, and provides a benefits package to them that includes health, dental, and vision insurance; disability; and death benefits.

"The employee benefits plan does not extend to so-called 'domestic partners' as the San Francisco domestic partner benefits

ordinance requires, but extends only to employees and their lawful spouses," the lawsuit stated.

SDMI is being represented by the same team of attorneys that filed PM&M's lawsuit: Jay Sekulow, from the ACLU's main office in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Benjamin Bull, of the ACLU office in Scottsdale, Arizona; and Michael Millen, a lawyer based in San Jose. Robertson started the ACLU as a legal advocacy group that would aggressively promote the Christian right's agenda as a response to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The lawsuit stated that SDMI was notified in October that it was the lowest qualified bidder for a \$143,455 contract to perform maintenance services on city electrical transformers. The company was then notified by the HRC that it would need to comply with the domestic partner benefit ordinance.

According to lawsuit, SDMI President Dana S. Myers wrote to the city on November 13, explaining that the company was founded and operates on Christian religious principles. "Mr. Myers's letter explained that the Bible states that 'sex outside the context of marriage is wrong,' and that if SDMI 'gave health insurance to unmarried partners of employees, we [SDMI] would be approving of a lifestyle that God has said that we are not to approve of."

"Mr. Myers requested a religious exemption from the ordinance," the lawsuit stated.

SDMI stated in the lawsuit that the bid it had sought was awarded to another company. ▼

Yee

◀ page 1

determine whether to approve the city project, the date ... and the procedure for obtaining information on submitting comments." The signs would have to be clearly visible from the street, and would have to be posted at least 15 days before consideration of approval of the city project.

Several people at the committee hearing argued that such postings would violate the confidentiality of people who would utilize services at the site.

Notification=power?

In an interview this week, Yee was adamant his legislation would not have violated confidentiality. "It's not going to reveal what services, it's not going to reveal the specific population to be served. If it says 'Health Department,' how will that divulge [population]?" Yee said. "This is my way of opening up government to neighbors. What are we afraid of? For me, information is power, notification is power."

Stephen Cornell, president of

the city's Small Business Advisory Commission, testified at the hearing and said his group voted unanimously in support of Yee's proposal. "This is an equality issue for us," Cornell said, adding government and nonprofit organizations should have to "go through the same hoops" as small business owners.

Not everyone saw it that way at the hearing. Mark Dunlop, the openly gay member of the city's Redevelopment Commission, told the B.A.R. that Yee proposed the legislation for political gain. "Leland is pandering to the lowest common denominator in an effort to get himself more prestige. He's historically worked hard to get the lesbian and gay vote - and then he turns around and kicks us where it hurts."

"I also think that in San Francisco, this sort of legislation is fascist. I think Leland Yee should be ashamed. What's next? Are people going to be sewing on patches of cloth to designate what they're in these houses for? I wish he would rethink this whole thing," said Dunlop.

Yee's legislation states that the pre-approval notice is needed be-

cause city projects "have at times been implemented with little or no direct notice to the public prior to project approval." Asked for specific examples, Yee said none immediately came to mind.

There is also a provision in the legislation for exemptions, among which are shelters for battered persons. Yee was asked why AIDS/HIV housing projects were not included as exemptions.

"I've worked with domestic violence victims and it's important to keep the locations of those [shelters] confidential," said Yee, who is a clinical psychologist.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) came out against Yee's proposal at the hearing. While the foundation declined to talk to the B.A.R. about the issue, a tape of the meeting revealed that Laura Thomas, SFAF's public policy associate, said the organization is strongly opposed to the pre-approval notice legislation.

"Not only would the notice requirement violate the confidentiality of people living with HIV/AIDS, it would also increase the cost of providing much-needed services," Thomas testified. ▼

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l migs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV +. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons with HIV-related problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workshops: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group
Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group
2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS
AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail lchoi415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV
Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places
Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 24 years old living with HIV. Drop-in support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle
Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual parents, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cannabis Club
Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market. 622-3986.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project
(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV + gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence
Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8134.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Counseling Services for Drinking Drivers
Groups for gay men who are court- or DMV-mandated to attend a multiple offender program. Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services: 241-1187.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center
Free classes for HIV + people in needpoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center
At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type 1 and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services
Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program
Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Eden I & R
Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 571-2600.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services
Support groups, emotional & practical buddy support, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center
Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

FABRIC
A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Galeemas
Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project
Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists
Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service
Seeks gay-sensitive law students as volunteer law clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation
Offers activities for players of all abilities, membership mts. monthly. Info: Donna at 282-2453 or e-mail dckins@aol.

Gay Male Nudists
Potluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Men's STD/Vol Clinic
Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Youth Spirit
A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Guide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project
Free, confidential Oursure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox
Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. 529 Clayton. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation
Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Super's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services
For PWAs and their caregivers. Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
Peer support for persons afflicted with Hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network
Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program
Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf
Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVcare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group
Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group
Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions
Free classes for PWA, their families, friends & loved ones: "New AIDS Drugs: What Every Patient & Caregiver Should Know," more. 1675 California. 824-3269.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs
Provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project
Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center
Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza
Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Project
Counseling, support groups, case management, more for Jewish people with HIV and their loved ones. 561-1241.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit
Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program
(LYFE) Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Serv. Children's H.O.P.E. Project
Provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian/Gay Christian Scientists
Meets 2nd Monday of each month for healing, insight and support. Info: 281-0636. or (800) 280-6653.

Linea de Ambiente
Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center
Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School
Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality
Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group
Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

Meditation Sessions
For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mobilization Against AIDS
Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th Internat'l AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Molested Boys:
"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

Mothers Organizing Mothers
Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

Movement and Voice
Group for HIV + Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

MWM
A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market. 520. 227-0946.

Multiple Loss Bereavement Group
For those experiencing multiple losses of friends or loved ones to AIDS. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

National Association of People With AIDS Fax
Fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA FAX: 202-789-2222.

National Association for Visually Handicapped
Helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV + and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Native American AIDS Project
Support, resources and advocacy for Native American/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

New Leaf Transgender Substance Abuse Group
Mondays 4-5:30pm. Contact Fred Barrios, 626-7000 x146.

New Leaf
Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTLINE
Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center
Counseling services for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Pacific Center Walnut Creek
Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

Paradigm
Models for Enhancing Life Near Death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

The Positive Center
Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Living for Us
Free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV +. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Positive Resource
Provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project HOPE
Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Inform
HIV/AIDS Treatment info & advocacy group. Introductory town mts. first Wed. of month, 6:30pm, 1965 Market, Suite 220. Hotline: 558-9051; 1-800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Projecto ContralSIDA Por Vida
Provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Psychic Horizons
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWAs Undergoing Infusion
Support group for men, free. Tues. afternoons. Call Carol or Jim at 552-2022.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Qi Gong for Health
\$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center
Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radiical Women
Business mtg. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Rafiki Services Project
Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

re plen ish
Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF
Offers low fee counseling/psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support/therapy groups for family/loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

Richmond Senior Center
Seeks volunteers in computer, p.r., marketing, senior safety, other fields. Call 752-2815.

Sadhana Brothers
Gay/bi men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Immigration
And Asylum Rights Task Force meets first Thurs. of every month, 7pm, 870 Market St., Rm. 1213. Offers support groups for gay immigrants and their lovers, friends. Shannon, 962-6257.

San Mateo County AIDS Program
Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 573-2488. Information: 573-2588.

SCA
Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Fri. at 6:30pm, 2128 15th St. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Central
Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors, free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Senior Unlimited Nudes
Naturists over 40 fighting aging & imagism, gather at Baker Beach. Info: Send SASE to SUN, box 426937, SF 94142.

Southern Alameda HIV Services
Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups
Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center
Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan
Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transenders in Transition
Alternative Family Project's on-going support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm, 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transgender Support Group
Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month, 6:30pm. Call: Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContralSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 218711
The following person(s) are doing business
as Mike The Gardener, 1062 Oak St, San
Francisco, CA 94117: Michael S. Roche,
1062 Oak St, San Francisco, CA 94117.
Registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above fictitious business
name or names on the date of November
10, 1997. This business is conducted by an
individual. Signed Michael S. Roche. This
statement was filed with the County Clerk
of the City and County of San Francisco,
CA on November 10, 1997.
Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 218979
The following person(s) are doing business
as Propaganda, 450 Ninth St, San Francis-
co, CA 94103: The London Antique, 450
Ninth St, San Francisco, CA 94103.
Registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above fictitious business
name or names on the date of April 1,
1997. This business is conducted by a cor-
poration. Signed Tyreman. This statement
was filed with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on No-
vember 24, 1997.
Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR

CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO.
991163
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the
matter of the application of Judith Lynn
Samuels for change of name. The applica-
tion of Judith Lynn Samuels for change of
name, having been filed in Court, and it ap-
pearing from said application that Judith
Lynn Samuels has filed an application
proposing that her name be changed to Ju-
dith Samuels Kahan. Now, therefore, it is
hereby ordered and directed, that all per-
sons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Room 218 on the 22nd
day of December, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock
A.M., of said day to show cause why the
application for change of name should not
be granted. It is further ordered that a copy
of the Order be published in the BAY
AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general
circulation, printed in said county, at
least once a week for four consecutive
weeks prior to the day of said hearing.
Dated the 18th day of November, 1997.
Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME-
FILE NO. 199301
The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business known as
Flying Penguins, 360 Guerrero St., #207,
San Francisco, CA 94103: Alan R.
Rearick, 360 Guerrero St., #207, San
Francisco, CA 94103. This business was
conducted by an individual. Signed Alan
R. Rearick. This statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on December 9, 1997.
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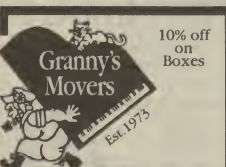
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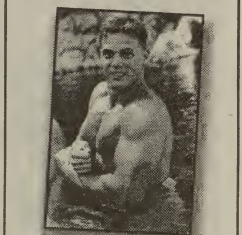
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Erin Blackwell reveals the dark side of human sexuality in the Susie Bright anthology 'Best American Erotica 1997.'
page 41

David Sedaris' 'Holidays on Ice' gets to the nub of the Xmas season.
page 45



John Waters exercises his controlling tendencies in 'Director's Cut.'
page 38



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 51 • 18 December 1997

Is there life after Barbra?

For Ken Joachim, building a shrine to Streisand has been more guts than glory

by Richard Dodds



It was an FOB on the phone — a fan of Barbra. "You must be in seventh heaven," the FOB told Ken Joachim as he was getting ready for his first visitors of the day at Hello Gorgeous!, the Barbra Streisand Museum. After all, a so-much-in-love Barbra Streisand had just cried on television with Rosie O'Donnell and snuggled with James Brolin for Barbara Walters, all in support of a new album that debuted at the top of the charts. "Seventh heaven," Joachim repeated, as if hearing the words again might help transport him there.

In the 18 months since his store, gallery, and memorabilia collection devoted to all things Barbra opened, Joachim has discovered that it's not just the mirror that has two faces. "A lot of people who come in here say, 'It's so neat to be in someone's dream.' But sometimes a dream can also be a nightmare."

Some of what Joachim is feeling are the usual woes of a proprietor of a small business — too many hours, too few dollars. But the past 18 months have also brought lessons in media manipulation, Hollywood hypocrisy, and aspects of human nature that he never learned about in the business class that eventually led him to create Hello Gorgeous!.

That pivotal class, taken at City College in San Francisco, was in career exploration. "The instructor made us look at our belief systems," said Joachim, who had already spent years in therapy

trying to make sense of a life that began in poverty in a housing project in Ohio and included an abusive, alcoholic father.

"I really changed my life," said Joachim, who is 40. "I worked hard on changing the script, and the museum is part of that project. This was about doing something I liked."

For our meeting, Joachim was seated on a divan in the upstairs room of the intimate museum, surrounded by dozens of paintings of Streisand he commissioned from various artists. Usually, and a little eerily, the room is populated with costumed mannequins all bearing the distinctive Streisand countenance. But on this day the room had been cleared for a series of shows by Streisand impersonator Greg Halstead, whose performances are part of Joachim's efforts to keep the customers — and creditors — satisfied.

On the landing at the top of the stairs, a mini-diorama depicts a '60s living room with a vintage television forever tuned to early Streisand. "The Barbra I fell in love with was the Barbra of *Funny Girl* and *Color Me Barbra*," said Joachim. "She was not afraid of who she was. And since I had been told, 'Don't be creative, don't be gay, don't be yourself,' that's probably why I was attracted to her."

But despite the media's attempts to portray him as a super

page 40 ►

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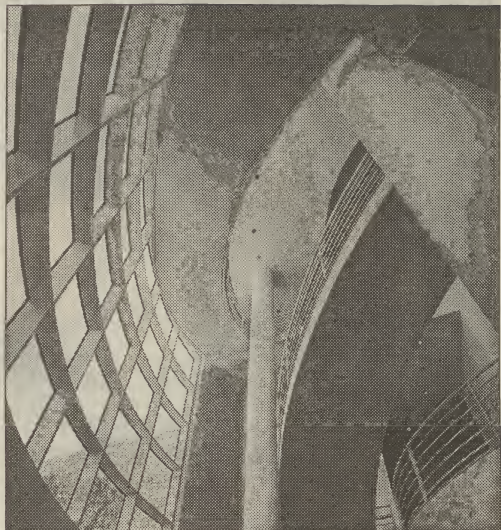
We've just been hopping from one holiday bash to another this past week, spreading Xmas cheer and bile like there's no tomorrow. We must tell you, though, we're miffed that we didn't get an invite to the *Examiner's* big Xmas party last Saturday on Treasure Island. We heard a fab time was had by all, and that **Phil B.** even brought **Sharon S.** As for that young reporter who makes such a mean brown Betty, we're hoping **Mr. D** will call soon with the results of the big bake-off.

Distressed by the *Examiner's* oversight, we hopped on a plane to LA to check out the party scene down there. Perhaps it wasn't a party, but the biggest "scene" we encountered was at the Getty Center, the spanking new museum and cultural complex that now sits atop the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking beautiful Brentwood. We were lucky enough to get a press tour of the place last week, hence can tell you that **Richard Meier's** building is one of the most spectacular pieces of architecture to be realized in California, if not the country, in this century.

Here are a few facts about the Getty Center, borrowed from the pages of *Architectural Record*: it took 14 years and three months to build, cost \$1 billion, and consists, at least in part, of 295,000 pieces of Italian travertine (each weighing 280 pounds); 40,000 painted aluminum panels; 25 million pounds of rebar; 165,000 square feet of exterior glass; 340 miles of conduit; 8.1 million cubic feet of concrete; 151 miles of plumbing and sprinkler piping; and 8,000 new trees.

But what about the art? The Getty's collection has grown quickly to become an important treasury of Medieval manuscripts, Old Masters paintings, European and American photography, and French decorative arts. Queens will love the latter, in particular a jumbo-sized neoclassical bed with long white plumes flying from its four posts, not to mention a perfectly lovely, Regence-style paneled room, complete with oversized furniture and breathtaking tapestries. Natch, we couldn't take our eyes off an elaborate, late 18th-century chandelier designed in the shape of a hot air balloon. **Gillian Wilson**, the Getty's chatty and ebullient Curator of Decorative Arts, told us the big bowl dangling from its crush of cut glass was designed to hold goldfish. Can you imagine?

Given the great time we had at the Center, we were sort of surprised by all the meretricious whining that has greeted the new Getty. In the pages of the *New York Times* and the *LA Weekly*, on NPR and even the local news stations, commentators have grouched that the Center is "elitist" and "too removed from LA." One droner in the *LA Weekly* even complained that it's impossible to locate a single look for the Getty Center out of its multiplicity of shapes. Please. How removed from LA can the museum be if it sits in the middle of the Sepulveda Pass, directly off the San Diego Freeway? As for the *Weekly*, Richard Meier's piano curves are signature elements of his acclaimed design oeuvre, and are among the most distinctive features of all 20th-century architecture. As for the



Inside the Getty Center

charges of elitism, hell, we were there, how elite can the Getty be? These boring blatherers should be keel-hauled at dawn.

Grand opening

Closer to home, the Center for the Arts was the place to be last Friday for the opening of several new shows, *To Be Real*, an exhibition featuring the work of nine artists; *Now Entering Beaver-creek*, Ohio, San Francisco artist **Rodney O'Neal Austin's** "visual diary" of life in his hometown; and *New Work* by **Scott Williams**. As if that weren't enough of a draw, the NAMES Project

Foundation used this occasion to officially launch its online quilt.

The evening was a blast, and we enjoyed running into lots of old friends, including: Center for the Arts Head Honcho **John Kil-lacky**, omnipublicist **David Perry**, whose post-boyfriend haircut we think quite cute, photographer **Ricky Gerharter**, who dropped his Nikon on our foot, actor/writer **Thomas Simpson**, filmmaker **David Weissman**, and the glamorous writer **Jacques Servin**, who appears to be enjoying his new status as one of *Out* magazine's 100 most fabulous queers in America. (When queried on how he managed to make the cut, Jacques, with no little ennui, rolled his pretty eyes and said, "Oh, I was at this party in New York, and some people there talked me into it.")

During the course of the evening, O'Neal Austin, done up in what looked to us like day-glo beachwear, warbled some tunes, and artist/AIDS activist **Hunter Reynolds**, in the guise of alter-ego **Patina du Prey**, did a star turn in his now-famous Memorial Dress, a black, floor-length number on which have been sewn the names of 30,000 people who have died of AIDS.

As for the work, we just think it's all fabulous, especially **Gregory Crewdson's** lurid photographs of nature up close: moths covering a window, finches devouring deer carcasses, that sort of thing. And, of course, we were struck dumb by **Tony Matelli's** sculpture *Lost and Sick*, which, as the title suggests, depicts three Boy Scouts in BC buds lost in the forest and puking their guts out.

Isn't she lovely?

Though it was high on our list of priorities, Matelli's puke piece

wasn't the only reason we ventured to the Center for the Arts last Friday. We also went hoping we'd get a chance to shake hands with the evening's special guest, **Kate Shindle**, who, in addition to being *Miss America 1998*, is

page 54 ►



"You can touch it": Miss America 1998, Kate Shindle

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FILM

Sun screen

South Florida, unlikely haven for queer cinema

by Brandon Judell

There's Cannes, Berlin, and Sundance, and at least a thousand other film festivals around the world showcasing what is new, daring, and sometimes queer. Sadly, many of these offerings won't be screening anytime soon at your ma and pa's local mall theater.

But, ironically, more and more of these films are showing up in southern Florida, thanks to the Fort Lauderdale Film Festival, which just celebrated its 12th year earlier this month. With over 120 films, plenty of stars (Ben Gazzara, Amanda Plummer, Gena Rowlands), catered parties, and lots of rich, weird people who could give the folks in John Berendt's Savannah a run for their money, it's no wonder this festival is growing in prestige.

But how important are the gay offerings and gay attendees to this event, which was recently named "one of the seven vital cultural institutions of the state of Florida" by the Florida legislature? "Very," according to the festival's president and director, Gregory von Hausch. "We're developing our gay audience," von Hausch shared. "We're fortunate in that the festival is just five minutes away

page 54 ►



Varla Jean Merman (left) and a cast of divas in *Franchesca Page*.



Emily Skinner and Alice Ripley star as Daisy and Violet Hilton in *Side Show*.

Bound for glory

'Side Show': novel twist on old idea

by Will Shank

In spite of the Disneyfication of 42nd Street, where a giant billboard for *Flubber* tops a Vegas-style entryway to the West Side subway lines, rest assured that Times Square is as tacky as ever. In fact, maybe even tackier; not too far from the *Flubber* sign is a larger-than-life advertisement for *Grease*, with Linda Blair as Rizzo. Her head revolves over a caption

that declares, "You can't be possessed your whole life!"

Happily, there are some class acts going on in theaters surrounding Times Square, and though I was not able to get into the sold-out *Jackie*, I did snag one of the few remaining standing-room tickets for *Side Show*, at the Richard Rodgers Theatre.

With music by Henry Krieger, the composer of *Dreamgirls*, and book and lyrics by Bill Russell, *Side Show* takes a classic theatrical formula — the showbiz success story — and gives it a novel twist: there are not one but two leading ladies, and they're joined at the hip. Literally. As Siamese twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, Emily Skinner and Alice Ripley are put through their paces of first the circus, then vaudeville in the '30s and '40s.

If the recitative that moves the bizarre plot forward becomes occasionally plodding, and is more reminiscent of the most boring moments of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* than it is of Stephen Sondheim, there are memorable production numbers to compensate. The best of these are Ziegfeld Follies-type song-and-dance routines, particularly one ancient Egypt-themed number entitled "We Share Every-

thing," featuring scantily clad male dancers dressed as pharaohs.

For me, the lame excuse for a plot — will either twin find true love with the cads who court and exploit them? — doesn't hold water, or interest. But what is extraordinary about *Side Show* is the subtle but palpable undercurrent of discomfort one feels from beginning to end. The matter-of-factness of the women's physical oddity is, in itself, extremely disconcerting, but when these Siamese twins sing the song "I Will Never Leave You," the otherwise innocuous lyrics become an exercise in emotional acrobatics for the audience. Is the attitude of the joined singers intended to be amusingly ironic, or one of pitiful defeat?

There is a great deal of food for thought in *Side Show*, and the heartstrings are frequently tugged by the plight of the leading ladies. Besides the aforementioned finale, another tear-jerker closes the first act: "Who Will Love Me As I Am?" It is destined to be a hit single. ▼

Side Show continues at the Richard Rodgers Theatre (226 West 46th Street) in New York. For tickets, call (800) 755-4000.

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'Towering inferno of melodramatic rage'

by Jerry Metzker

The wacky and talented Art-full Circle Theatre is back with that lurid Xmas favorite, *Christmas with the Crawfords*, a slick *tour de force* about the Christmas Eve antics of Mommie Dearest herself, Miss Joan Crawford (Michael Cameron Benbrook), and over-the-top gossip maven Hedda Hopper (Tif Rice).

It's Christmas Eve 1944, and Crawford is not a happy camper. She's just been fired from MGM and Warner Brothers is insisting she take a screen test for her next role. If those insults aren't enough to vex this vain superstar, she has her uncooperative kids Christina (Flynn DeMarco) and Christopher (Jason Scott Buro) to contend with, as well as a gaggle of other famous divas who drop by to exude their damned Xmas cheer.

Anything goes in this charged-up romp through old Hollywood's closets. The icing on the cake, though, is the all-around terrific cast. The statuesque Benbrook portrays Joan as a towering inferno of melodramatic rage. He has a terrific singing voice, but he's not the only one. DeMarco,



Michael Cameron Benbrook as Joan and Flynn DeMarco as Christina.

Trauma Flintstone, and Mark Sargent channel the Andrews Sisters in three outstanding numbers. With the additional talents of Chris March, the unforgettable Tif Rice, and Steven LeMay, divas like Mae West, Ethel Merman, "Baby Jane Hudson," Vivian Leigh, and Rosalind Russell all get a chance to shine. Kate Simonton adds additional flair as a fragile

Judy Garland (she shares the role with Connie Champagne).

Mark Sargent, Wayne Buidens, Richard Winchester, and Joe Collins created the show, and director Dana Peter Porras keeps it all moving along at a nice clip, no small feat given all these stars and star turns. ▼

Christmas with the Crawfords continues through January 3 at 450 Geary Studio Theatre. Call 621-5455 for tickets and information.



Parker Posey

Sundance '98: the lavender low-down

by Jenni Olson, PopcornQ

Organizers of the annual Sundance Film Festival announced last week that this year's showcase, which unfolds in Park City, Utah January 15-25, will boast 103 features and documentary films culled from a record number of festival submissions — 700 dramatic features, 200 documentaries and foreign films, and an unbelievable 1,479 shorts.

Festival programmers also revealed that most ticket packages have already sold out, explaining that the '98 line-up is actually 10 percent smaller than in previous years.

Films of queer interest include the latest Tilda Swinton flick, *Conceiving Ada* (directed by Lynn Herschman Leeson and co-starring Karen Black); a new outing from Ian McKellan called *Gods & Monsters*, about openly gay '30s director James Whale, directed by Bill Condon and executive produced by Clive Barker; *The Hanging*

Garden, Thom Fitzgerald's highly-acclaimed coming-of-age reminiscence; Lisa Cholodenko's debut feature film *High Art*, a tale of art world hi-jinx featuring Ally Sheedy as a junkie dyke; and Brian Skeet's *The Misadventures of Margaret*, an adaptation of the Cathleen Schine novel *Rameau's Niece*, starring Elizabeth McGovern and Parker Posey. Finally, there's P.J. Castellana's long-awaited follow up to his 1991 hit *Together Alone* — *Relax, It's Just Sex*, starring Jennifer Tilly (*Bound*) and Lori Petty (*Tank Girl*). ▼

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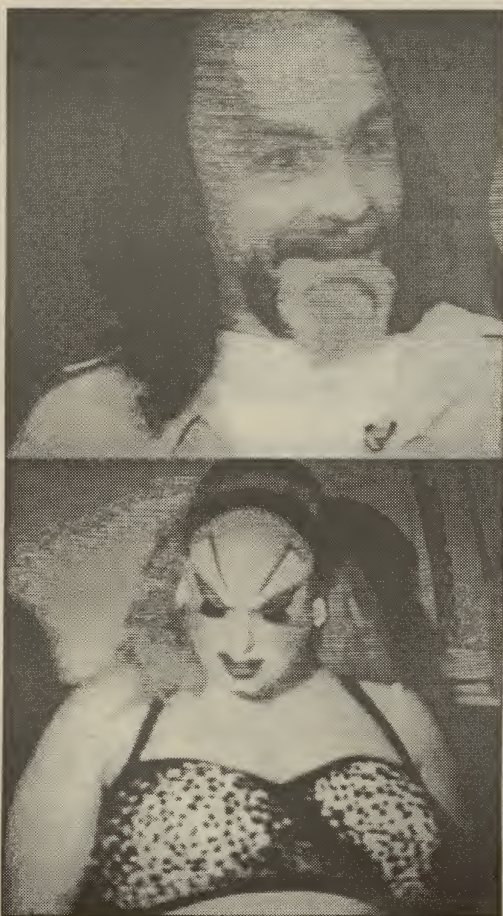
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Manson Copies Divine's Hairdo, 1993, by John Waters

Private sessions

by Glen Helfand

Director's Cut by John Waters;
Scalo, \$49.95

John Waters may enjoy cult status, but popularity doesn't guarantee Michael Eisner-size budgets. So in those lag times between funding for his films, Waters flexes his auteur muscles on what he calls "little movies"—art house projects meant to be seen in the galleries rather than multiplexes. *Director's Cut*, newly published by Scalo, chronicles Waters' efforts in this vein.

For his "little movies," Waters photographs scenes from video versions of his favorite films (usually camp classics and gay porn) and rearranges them to conform to his twisted memory of the first breathtaking time he saw the movie. Thus he shows us *The Bad Seed* boiled down to its essence: Patty McCormick's inimitable pouty facial expressions and tantrum-bounced pigtails. *Peyton Place*—*The Movie* becomes a bunch of pastoral New England landscapes, pristine churches, and graveyards.

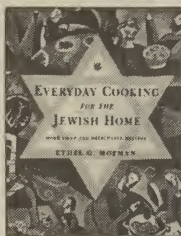
Waters gets a bit wackier when he creates typologies of drug-injection scenes from movies, or juxtaposes media characters like Francis the Talking Mule and Jessica Lange as crazed actress Frances Farmer, or compares the strikingly similar hairdos worn by Divine and Charles Manson. In other arrangements, Waters reveals his obsessions with Eliza-

Detail from *Foreign Film*, 1994, by John Waters

beth Taylor (by comparing her face-lift scars to his trademark pencil mustache) and spread butt cheeks (shaved and unshaved). Some of these images are genuinely hilarious, like *7 Marys*, a group of holy virgins that includes Paul Lynde, while others, such as *Eat Your Makeup*, seem like straightforward, self-aggrandizing documentations of Waters' early films.

In his afterword, Waters admits that these pictures were initially private endeavors that al-

lowed him to exercise his control freak tendencies by having the "final cut" on another director's movie. As such, they're endearing, yet sometimes the endeavor seems remarkably adolescent, as in an image entitled *Straight*, essentially a title card reading "Mel Gibson" placed on the page at a distinctive angle. Get it? As clever as some of these images are, in a \$50 art book they often seem disturbingly thin. *Director's Cut* is a vanity effort for die-hard fans only. ▼



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Barbra

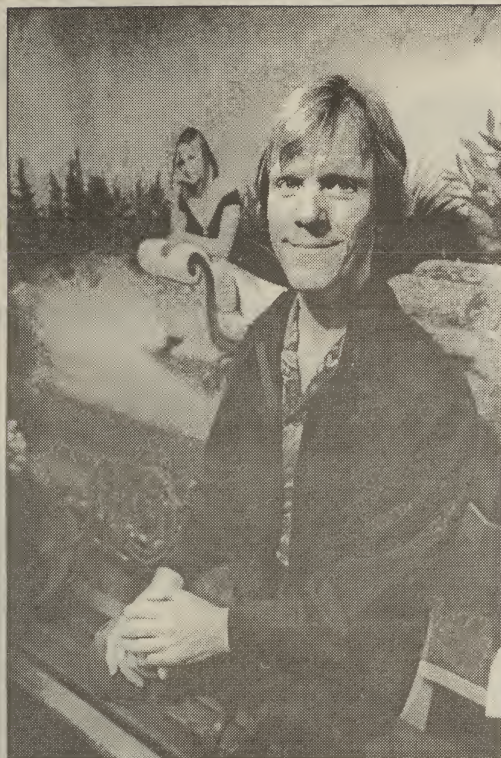
◀ Arts cover

fan, Joachim said he'd always been no more than a casual admirer of Streisand. That changed when, during a buying trip for his vintage clothing business, he headed into a used record store in St. Louis. He began to look — *really* look — at all the Streisand album covers. There was a history there that Joachim could appreciate, and as he began contemplating his future, he imagined creating a business that pays tribute to the Streisand phenomenon.

"But it wasn't an easy road," he said. "Landlords turned me down. Even my friends made fun of it. It was not like the universe was supporting me on this."

Joachim finally found the space on Castro Street, an old carriage house with access through a narrow alley, and after jumping through a succession of hoops to convince its owner to rent to him, he brought in a crew that spent four months creating Hello Gorgeous! "This was a dive," Joachim said. "People said, 'Ken, are you nuts?' But taking garbage and making nice out of it comes from growing up in extreme poverty." To realize Hello Gorgeous!, Joachim tapped out the equity in property he owns, and when the bills kept coming in, he turned to his credit cards. "Those interest rates," he said, "are eating me alive."

It costs \$3 to wander about Hello Gorgeous!, but most of the income is from store sales. Joachim stocks new merchandise including Streisand CDs and video tapes, as well as T-shirts, coffee mugs, and other souvenirs



Ken Joachim of Hello Gorgeous!!

from her concert tours. He also creates his own lines of Streisandiana: calendars, refrigerator magnets, postcards, and a single Streisand-head cookie jar. There were two, but the other was sent stuffed with cookies to Rosie O'Donnell, who, to Joachim's chagrin, didn't use it on the Streisand show (she did, however, use the refrigerator magnets O'Donnell's staff requested Joachim express mail to New York).

"It's all phony," he said, "but people want to believe it's real. I'm working so hard on myself to be honest and live with integrity, so it makes it hard to deal with all this."

When Joachim goes home to Kenwood, there is no Streisand. "I have a life, a partner, and a home, and Barbra is not in my home. Everything is here."

That includes collector's items

such as vintage magazines and posters, some of which Joachim sells on consignment. "I get calls from people in relationships with Barbra Streisand who don't want her to know that they're selling stuff she gave them," he said. But Joachim won't sell any bootleg recordings or videos. "I couldn't even if I wanted to."

Although he consulted a lawyer before he opened Hello Gorgeous!, his early months in business were spent in "tremendous fear because I knew that Barbra was a very controlling person," Joachim said. Not that he tried to keep his enterprise a secret. "I wanted her to hear about it from me," he said. By registered mail, he sent out packets explaining his plans for the museum to Streisand and her associates. Most

page 47 ▶

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New look for
Just Like Buttah

Although the Barbra Streisand newsletter *Just Like Buttah* has been around for a while, what used to be a tattered rag that would blow out of your hands in the slightest of breezes is now a big, full-color glossy with a hefty subscription base. We've just flipped through several of the latest issues and must say that we're stunned by the magazine's glamorous new look. Each issue includes current Streisand news (that much-talked about Celine Dion/Streisand collaboration *isn't* going to happen), feature articles (about her relationship to James Brolin, the selling of that Malibu mansion), gorgeous color pics of Barbra (many of them vintage), and clever departments like "Barbaradom," which is chock-full of news about Streisand from around the world; and "Barbra Chatter," which, as the title suggests, is full of delicious Streisand dish (Barbra did all of her Xmas shopping this year at a Target in Santa Monica). If you'd like more information about *Just Like Buttah*, contact JLB Publishing, P.O. Box 6152, Arlington, Texas 76005. Or contact JLB on the Internet at: JLBpub@aol.com. ▼

— Pithy Galore



BOOKS

The shocking underside of human sexuality

by Erin Blackwell

Best American Erotica 1997;
Simon & Schuster, \$12

The quintessential San Francisco taboo is the one against condemning somebody else's good time. Erotica benefits from this amnesty; alone among literary genres — if it is literature — it is exempt from criticism. All is fair in love and pornography. What then can the enterprising critic say of *The Best American Erotica 1997*?

Anyone already depressed by the accelerating brutality of Americans, and the culture that reflects and incites this brutality, should avoid this book. The eponymous Martian rifling through its pages could not be faulted for concluding that sex is a ritual of injuries and insults exchanged by two or more beings who hate one another. As in the following:

"Blow followed blow, regular as clockwork. Daphne wasn't strong, but her whip was nasty artillery." (from "Mate" by Lauren P. Burka); "They worked the scarf like a log saw under her pelvis, back and forth..." (from "Lunch" by Mark Stuerz); "Pain seared her. His merciless cock filled her rectum until it felt stuffed and bursting." (from "The Case of the Demon Lover" by Nancy Kilpatrick); "I did not say you could speak!" I slapped his cock with a leather glove. His cock throbbed. I kicked over his pile of clothes with my boot. You are nothing, understand?" (from "Real" by Bill Brent)

Some of these appear to be literally transcribed S/M scenarios or fantasies. One would hope that writing about S/M would be more than merely slavish — would be critical, quizzical, or deliciously insubordinate. No such luck. Most of these 22 reprints are composed of prose as taut as Fabio's pectorals.

Beyond routine S/M play, these tales reflect a fashion in American behavior that exalts what was previously termed "rudeness" but now seems to be pre-Millennial business-as-usual. Lyricism and love having long been implicitly banned from erotica, it now seems as if road rage were the only possible preliminary to sex.

Another dismaying trend is the omnipresent cock. While editor

Susie Bright may have long since outgrown her lesbian phase, some of us have moved past heterosexuality — and were never phallocentric to begin with.

The only evidence of dickless heat occurs in the unintelligible "Bajando La Luna," a bilingual essentialist cosmology lesson featuring Luna and Terra. Ted Blumberg's "Feeding Frenzy" comes on with a pussy-eating line, but finishes with a him/him/her sandwich joined at the penis. Even when the action is between two women, the reader has to swallow: "Then she grabbed her by the hair and slammed the cock force-

plenty of graphic detail:

"Rob explained that he'd had a genitoplasty, a procedure in which the clitoris, enlarged from testosterone, is reshaped into a one-inch penis, and the outer labia fashioned into a scrotum. I learned how to suck his cock until it stood hard and straight, reaching maybe two inches, then with a few well-timed flicks of my tongue, I'd cause him to twitch and shudder in orgasmic release."

Sheiner complements these anatomical secrets with their psychological counterparts — aka passion — and not a little self-mockery:

Lyricism and love having long been implicitly banned from erotica, it now seems as if road rage were the only possible preliminary to sex.

fully into her again, choking her. She loved the feeling of being in control, of watching Alex take her cock into her throat." ("The Butch's New Clothes" by Isobel Bird)

There are, of course, exceptions. Two stories demonstrate the continuum possible between spiritual or emotional experience and sex. Simon Sheppard's "A Puja to Ganesha" portrays a man mourning a dead lover in a foreign country:

"When Chas was dying, I resolved to make this trip, a journey we'd long dreamed of. We'd been planning the itinerary when the first lesions had appeared. Losing Chas had left an emptiness in me, an emptiness I thought could never be filled."

After the narrator shares an opium pipe with his train compartment companion, the two improvise an incandescent ritual:

"As I stared into Shiva's three eyes, His face softened and shifted, turned into the face of my dead lover. I was being fucked by Chas, I was being fucked by Shiva, I was being fucked by India. I was being fucked by a fat businessman and it was all right and it was what I needed."

Exploring a reality equally exotic but closer to home, Marcy Sheiner's "What?" portrays a relationship between a biological woman and an FTM. There is

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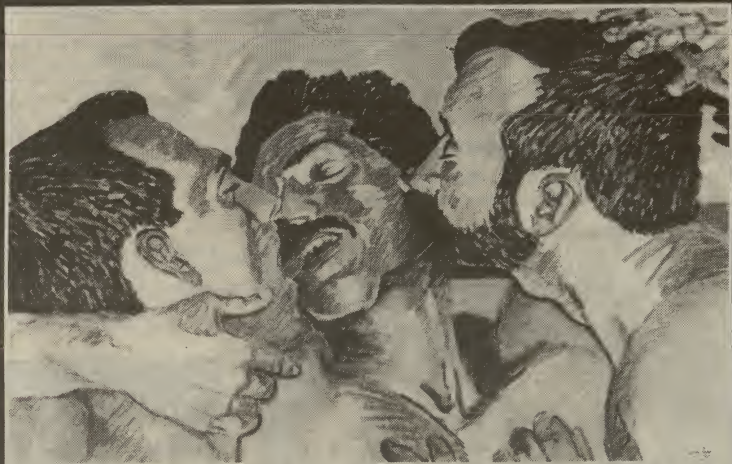


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Doll face

by Deborah Peifer

Barbie Unbound: A Parody of the Barbie Obsession by Sarah Strohmeyer, photos by Geoff Hansen; New Victoria, \$12.95

Have you ever had a fantasy about Barbie, a feminist fantasy in which Barbie was transformed into all manner of characters who offered pointed political commentary along with plenty of laughs? Have no fear, because Sarah Strohmeyer has, and has realized those dreams in a very funny collection of commentary and photographs (by Geoff Hansen) called *Barbie Unbound*.

Consider the varieties of Barbies that might exist in the real world, like "Overweight Outcast Adolescent Barbie," whose goal is "to die young and leave an emaciated corpse that still looks too fat in jeans." Or my personal favorite, "PMS Barbie," who is easily assembled using "Bloated Barbie (It's water weight, mind your own business)" and "A white male medical establishment (Of course they don't understand, how could they — they're *men!*"). You'll also enjoy "Barbie Lee Gifford" who "visits her very own sweatshop." Each new Barbie description is followed by hilarious commentary and instructions. "PMS Barbie's" instructions are simple: "Very carefully open the Barbie package. Don't say anything. Don't even look at her sideways."



Pro-Life Barbie vs. Pro-Choice Midge

Strohmeyer's discussion questions for every type of Barbie are particularly well-done, offering satirical observations that are painfully funny. Ranging from contemporary America to medieval France ("Barbie D'Arc")

and all eras in between, *Barbie Unbound* explores the ways in which the already ubiquitous Barbie might achieve true universality. On the way to that great coming-up morning, you'll have more than a few laughs. ▼

Like magic

by Deborah Peifer

The Drag Queen of Elfland and Other Stories by Lawrence Schimel; Circle, \$10.95

I'm not ordinarily wild about the science fiction/fantasy genre, and short stories are almost always in need of, well, length, so a collection of short fantasy pieces ought to have been on my short list of "not for me, thanks." OK, I've been wrong before. Lawrence Schimel's *The Drag Queen of Elfland and Other Stories* is a delightful, occasionally thought-provoking, always entertaining collection that made me want to read more by this fine young — he's only 26! — writer. I think what impressed me

most about this collection is Schimel's liberal but always appropriate use of humor. I realized in reading this book that my biggest objection to the genre is how seriously its proponents take it and themselves. Schimel has some important things to say about love and death and all those big topics, but he never confuses the importance of the issue with his own self-importance. In the lovely and poignant "Old as a Rose in Bloom," a young woman is visited by her dead mother and learns a valuable lesson in openness. "Black Sounds" examines the problems that arise when someone strains to achieve spontaneity. And "Femme-de-Siècle" is the delicious tale of a lesbian vampire who, having come out of the closet, now must be brave enough to come out of the coffin.



Coming out in all its permutations is a constant theme in this collection, but coming out of what to where is not always obvious. Whether you are a sci-fi junkie or a reluctant reader of fantasy, one thing is certain: *The Drag Queen of Elfland* is a delight. ▼

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BOOKS

Bibliophile's bounty

by Deborah Peifer

This year was an extraordinary one for those of us who not only love to read, but who also read to live. Debut novels that reflected astonishing skill, poetry that illuminated the soul, historical fiction that created a living past, and contemporary fiction that entertained, enthralled, engaged — all made the past 12 months memorable. This was a banner year for writers who took chances, and in so doing changed the face of lesbian writing. It is, therefore, with deep appreciation that I cite, alphabetically, my choices for best writers of 1997.

Laura Adams

"Laura Adams" is the pseudonym of a well-known writer of lesbian romances, which means that her novel, *Night Vision* (Naiad, \$11.95), is in effect a first effort by an experienced writer. A tale of alien encounters wrapped in a delightful story of lesbians working together to solve a mystery, *Night Vision* entertains while it serves to remind us of the glory days of the lesbian nation, when we thought that pulling together was better than being on top.

Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Working Parts (Seal, \$12) is also a first novel, with the exceptional twist that the author's first-person hero is functionally illiterate. Lucy Bledsoe's Lori is a dyke with attitude, one whose native intelligence makes her ability to hide her illiteracy both believable and heartbreaking. Bledsoe shows us an unimaginable world, one in which reading is not a possibility. Creating rich characters in credible situations, Bledsoe gives us a lesbian hero whose courage is touching and inspiring.



Emma Donoghue

Emma Donoghue

A writer of skill and style, Emma Donoghue offered two different books this year, each worthy of special notice. In *Kissing the Witch: Old Tales in New Skins* (HarperCollins, \$14.95), she took classic fairy tales and gave them a decidedly feminist twist. That the twist was often also lesbian provided icing for these delectable tales. Many have tried to rework old stories, but Donoghue's effort was easily the best, filled with a breathtaking use of language that filled the reader's heart with delight.

Poems Between Women: Four Centuries of Love, Romantic Friendship, and Desire (Columbia University Press, \$24.95) provided a history of women's passion for one another. Editor Donoghue collected poems familiar and new,

and placed them in a vibrant history of women's writing. The exceptional introduction, in which she creates a context for the varied ways in which romantic writing was created in different centuries, is well worth the price of this superb collection.

Sarah Dreher

Sarah Dreher is the author of the deservedly popular Stoner McTavish mysteries, but with *Solitaire and Brahms* (New Victoria, \$12.95), she staked out new territory as a novelist of singular note. Her look at pre-Stonewall lesbian life included many of the horrors of those dark days, but Dreher wrote of the possibility of finding a light in that darkness that was both thrilling and utterly believable. While exploring the myriad ways women were kept down and kept back, she also created women who stood up for themselves and showed that they had the courage to love each other.

Elana Dykewomon

Great novels aren't written very often, but *Beyond the Pale* (Press Gang, \$15.95) deserves all the glowing adjectives available. In her glorious historical novel of turn-of-the-century Russian emigrants, Elana Dykewomon breathes life into characters who became friends to the reader, and she does so with skill and deep emotion. Her novel reminds us that the lesbian nation endured terrifying hardships and promised that we would last forever. Providing the detail necessary to make her characters and their lives vividly real, Dykewomon gives us a history to be proud of, while she entertains us royally.

Edith Forbes

In her third novel, *Exit to Reality* (Seal Press, \$24), Edith Forbes created an absolutely believable and completely horrifying future in which death had been conquered and life was no longer worth living. Forbes' earlier novels, *Alma Rose* and *Nowle's Passing*, were so fine that I never imagined she could take a distinctly idiosyncratic genre and make it her own. I should have had more faith. Boasting exquisite writing and an impossibly ingenious plot, *Exit to Reality* raises important questions of life and death while offering splendid wit and enthralling entertainment.



Katherine V. Forrest

Katherine V. Forrest

Any year in which Katherine Forrest publishes a new novel is by definition a good year. In her sixth Kate Delafeld mystery, Forrest gives us a breathtaking

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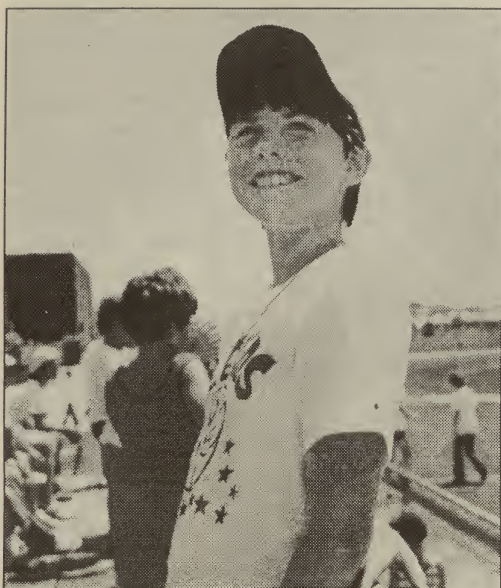
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The Last Time I Wore A Dress;
Riverhead Books, \$23.95

The surprising thing about *The Last Time I Wore A Dress* is artist Daphne Scholinski's decision to write her memoirs of incarcerated adolescence as if they constituted a coming-of-age novel. While this may win her a wider readership and — here's hoping — a movie deal, this in-your-face approach deprives the reader of any analytic perspective on the raw, sensational "facts."

The storyline is linear with a few jump cuts, from commitment on September 10, 1981 to release five

days after her 18th birthday, on August 10, 1984. As one of two daughters of divorced parents, Daphne developed a wild-child, Huck Finn approach to existence that the psychiatric establishment could only diagnose as Gender Identity Disorder and attempt to "correct."

Slogging through the minutiae of dysfunctional American family life and its corollary, the loony bin, Scholinski and co-writer Jane Meredith Adams tell us more than we need to know about her parents and the other patients. What's missing is reflection on that experience — in personal terms by the self-aware artist Scholinski has made of herself, or political terms by the gay rights and mental health activist that is her public persona.

Scholinski's narrative style is willfully naive, the tone punchy confessional:

"As we walked out of the theater, a clump of young girls in tight jeans screamed, Kevin Bacon, Kevin Bacon. I turned around. Where? They looked at me. I had the same spiky short hair he had in *Footloose*, the same jut of the chin. When we got back to Wilson Center, I didn't say a word about being

called Kevin Bacon."

Interspersed "notes" by observing psychiatrists, set off in vintage typewriter font, add a real-life clinical feel:

"The patient seems to be fixated at a preadolescent level of sexual development and she might have more themes of homo-eroticism toward the therapist than she feels comfortable discussing."

Not until the opening sentence of Chapter 16 do those blessed words "San Francisco" make it into print. Free at last — except from the memories, to which this book and her "over 3,000 paintings" attest obsessive hold. The last seven pages provide a rough sketch of Scholinski's life now, short on both details and insights.

Running the risks inherent in reducing a free spirit to a conventional narrative heroine, Scholinski remains a critical witness to the banalizing evils of the psychiatric establishment in general, and the fate of gender dysphoric youth in particular. And who knows? In the long run, the even-handed, conciliatory spirit of *The Last Time I Wore A Dress* may even prove an effective political strategy. ▼

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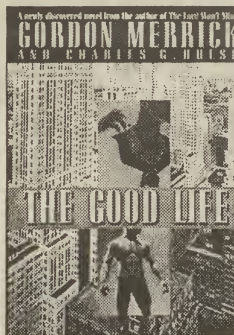
by Robert Julian

The Good Life by Gordon Merrick
and Charles G. Hulse; Alyson
Books, \$14.95

The late Gordon Merrick was the Danielle Steele of gay romance novels. Although not as prolific as Steele, Merrick had great success in the '70s with the release of his first novel, *The Lord Won't Mind*. Now a posthumous manuscript has surfaced, co-authored with Charles G. Hulse, which continues the tradition of the poor forbidden fruit who must make his way in a society that denigrates and abuses him. Of course, the fruit in question is young, exceedingly masculine and handsome, and in possession of one of the largest cocks in captivity.

For *The Good Life*, Merrick steals headlines from 1943 and fabricates a story behind the real-life murder of a Beekman Place heiress by her husband. Young Perry Langham, the murderer, grows up poor during the Depression. With the onset of puberty, Langham matures into a great beauty with a great big dick — a magic snake he uses to charm his way into the ranks of the rich and famous. His bisexual philandering leads to a liaison with the wealthy Billy Vernon of Manhattan. The divorced Vernon, an aging masochist, lives with a coterie of servants and sets Langham up to live like a king. Langham willingly agrees to become Vernon's boy toy and soon he's getting blow jobs from Clifton Webb and fucking Tallulah Bankhead.

Langham's problems begin when he falls for Vernon's daughter, Bettina. Their wild, passionate affair leads to the ill-advised marriage that eventually becomes their undoing. When Bettina discovers that Langham not only fucked her father, but her mother as well, she



declares that the man she fell in love with is "a freak, a pervert, a whore." When she follows this pronouncement with an attempt to bite off one of Langham's testicles, Bettina gets her head bashed open and Mr. and Mrs. Langham's "good life" comes to an end.

Merrick does this kind of novel as well as anyone — certainly more intelligently than Danielle Steele or Barbara Cartland — but don't expect prose on the level of Evelyn Waugh. *The Good Life* is an interesting bit of wish-fulfillment (many young gay boys dream that their cursed sexuality will be a fast-track to wealth and/or fame), and the author gives the Langham character lots of graphic sex scenes that allow the reader to probe the depth and breadth of the main character's sexual appetites. But Merrick's tendency to surround the homosexual expression with a series of horrendous personal disasters — all played out against a fabulously glamorous backdrop — make this work something of a time capsule. *The Good Life*, written 11 years ago, speaks of another era. But like all of Merrick's gay romances, it's the kind of page-turner that can be put to good use for a long flight or a day at the beach. ▼

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BOOKS

Season's greetings

by Russ Nordmeyer

Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris; Little Brown, \$14.95

Who doesn't have a holiday horror story or three to share? I remember when my Aunt Bea got looped on egg nog and chased Uncle Ralph around the Christmas tree with a baster, shooting turkey juices on him and screaming, "I know when the goddamned turkey is done, and it's not done yet!" Or when cousin Todd choked on that same

bone-dry turkey, turning a lovely shade of blue-green that perfectly matched the balls hanging on the tree, just as Uncle Ralph administered the Heimlich maneuver and shouted, "You damn near killed the boy, Bea! I told you that turkey was done an hour ago!"

Can you relate?

If so, you'll no doubt love *Holidays on Ice*, David Sedaris' new collection of seasonally-themed short stories. "SantaLand Diaries," "Dinah, The Christmas Whore," and "Season's Greetings to Our Family and Friends!!!" — previously published in Sedaris' collec-

tions *Naked and Barrel Fever* — are joined here by three new pieces: "Based on a True Story," "Christmas Means Giving," and "Front Row Center with Thaddeus Bristol." Although only "Thaddeus" lives up to the promise of Sedaris' earlier work, this wickedly hilarious and decidedly un-PC collection makes the perfect stocking-stuffer.

The book opens with "SantaLand Diaries," the strange-but-true tale of Sedaris' experience as a Macy's elf in Santa's workshop. As "Crumpt," Sedaris quickly becomes bored with the elves' code

of conduct and begins creating his own entertainment. When a group of deaf children comes to see Santa, Sedaris discards Macy's generic greeting and instead signs, "SANTA HAS A TUMOR IN HIS HEAD THE SIZE OF AN OLIVE. MAYBE IT WILL GO AWAY TOMORROW BUT I DON'T THINK SO." When a disgruntled shopper tells Sedaris "I'm going to have you fired!" he ponders replying, "I'm going to have you killed." A *Christmas Carol* this ain't.

In the fictional "Season's Greetings to Our Family and Friends!!!" Sedaris introduces the recently expanded Dunbar family

via the time-honored tradition of the holiday newsletter: "To those of you who live in a cave and haven't heard the news, allow us to introduce Khe Sahn Dunbar who, at the age of twenty-two, happens to be the newest member

page 46 ►

Bibliophile's

◀ page 43

page-turner with gorgeous extras. *Apparition Alley* (Berkley Prime Crime, \$21.95) offers suspense by the barrel, but more than that, it shows us the real dangers of the closet, as Kate Delafield investigates the death of a fellow closeted cop. Of particular interest in this novel is Kate's inability to recognize the ways in which the closet threatens to destroy everything of value in her life. Forrest shows us that coming out may be the second most dangerous thing we can do, second only to staying in.

Molly Giles

In her second collection of short fiction, *Creek Walk and other stories* (Papier-Mache, \$23), Molly Giles displays a stunning range of perfectly wrought short fiction.

From a terrifying narrative told by a woman who had been raped and murdered to the hilarious story of what happens to a writing group in which one of the members succeeds, each story is a complete world, filled with complex and believable characters. *Creek Walk* is a terrific success, filled with treasures.

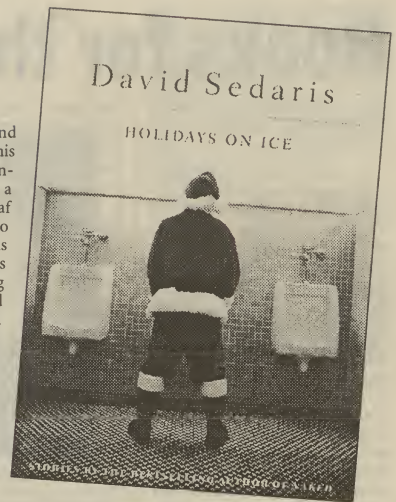
Lynn Kanter

It may be that the gay and lesbian community is so accustomed to loss that we have nothing more to learn from the process of grieving. The riches of *The Mayor of Heaven* (Third Side, \$22.95) suggest otherwise. In her tale of the year following the death of a beloved friend, Lynn Kanter examines the ways in which we must choose life after a devastating loss. In a novel filled with heartbreak and humor, Kanter creates wonderful characters who learn that

death is not the end of life, friendship, or love.

Lesléa Newman

As I was compiling this list, it struck me that the book that made me laugh most this year and the book that made me cry hardest were both written by the same exceptional talent. *Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear* (Alyson, \$10.95) contains superbly ironic commentary on the joys and foibles of lesbians of every kind. Beyond that, the book is laugh-out-loud funny. *Still Life With Buddy: a novel told in fifty poems* (Pride, \$9.95) celebrates a friendship that transcends death, thanks to Newman's willingness to write from the depths of both her love and her pain. The poems are always moving, often funny, never sentimental. The result is a tribute to one particular life and to all the lives we have lost. ▼



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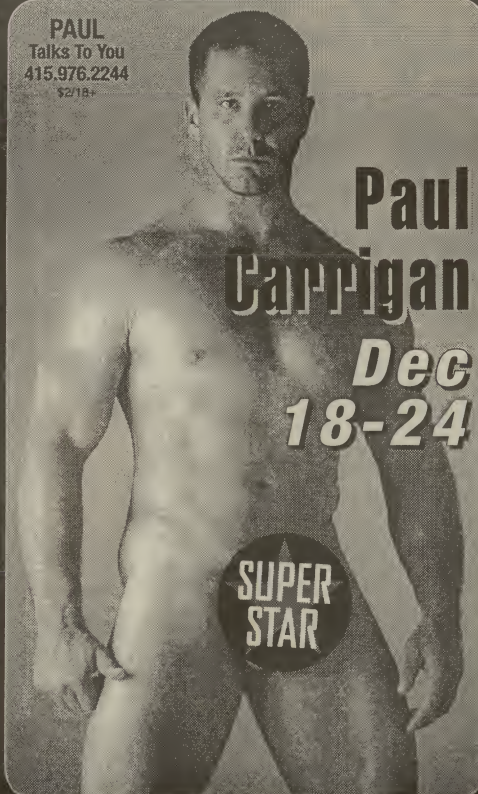
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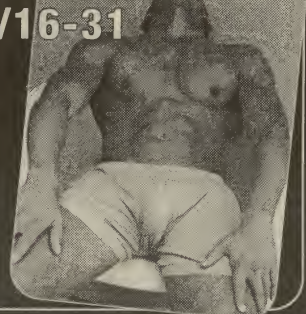
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Books for the budding queer

by Lawrence Schimel

As the holidays draw near, queers start thinking about gifts to give their nieces and nephews, or their own children. Books are a perennial favorite, and it's nice to be able to give ones that reflect our queer lives. While queer themes have been forbidden in literature for children and young adults for many years, several good books recently published for this emerging readership appear to be reversing that trend.

At the forefront of this effort is M.E. Kerr, who is perhaps better known to many lesbian and gay readers as Marijane Meaker and Vin Packer. Her most recent book, *Hello I Lied* (HarperCollins, \$15.95), is the story of a young gay man, Lang, who suddenly finds himself attracted to a French girl when his boyfriend goes away for the summer. This fascinating exploration of identity politics is remarkable for grappling with an infrequently discussed "grey area"



in queer desire, and also for Lang's remaining as gay at the end of the book as he is at the beginning, despite his attraction to this girl who has come into his life.

Kerr's *Deliver Us From Evie* (HarperCollins, \$4.95) is another remarkable book, portraying the first butch dyke in young adult literature, a girl growing up on a

farm who knows who she is and isn't about to pretend anything different for anybody.

Chances are any young readers you'll be buying for this season are already familiar with — and a fan of — the prolific Bruce Coville, author of the popular stories *My Teacher is An Alien*, *Space Brat*, *The Unicorn Chronicles*, and other series. In his latest novel, *The Skull of Truth* (Harcourt Brace, \$17), Charlie buys a skull in a magic shop that forces anyone near it to speak the truth. Among the various adventures that result from this enforced truth-telling, the skull is inadvertently left under the dinner table for a holiday meal that gets interrupted when skeletons begin emerging from the family closets — including that of an uncle who had outed himself. The book is refreshing because the gay content is treated as a subplot, and, as a result, doesn't get in the way of the storytelling.

Kissing the Witch by Emma Donoghue (HarperCollins, \$14.95) is a collection of fairy tales that renounces the tradition-

al heterosexual expectations placed on women, such as princesses waiting for princes to rescue them. Before giving this one away, read the delicious "Tale of the Kiss," which is remarkable for its insights about secrets and identities, loneliness, and the awesome power of kissing.

Oasis by Gregory Maguire (Clarion, \$14.95) is a moving story about family, grief, and forgiveness. Hand's father dies of a heart attack, and he resents his mother's return because she had abandoned him years previously by walking out on the family. Eventually, he learns to see the relationship from her point of view, and gains a deeper understanding of his once-infallible father. Later, Hand's uncle, who is in the latter stages of his battle with AIDS, moves in with them so he can die in peace surrounded by his family. This is a complex and heartfelt novel.

Weetzie Bat by Francesca Lia Block (HarperCollins, \$4.50) is a hip fairy tale of life in LA, where movies and magic are both real enough to touch. Weetzie Bat's



two best friends are gay surfers, Dirk and Duck, who fell in love at first sight. Jacqueline Woodson's *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* (The Blue Sky Press, \$14.95) chronicles a young black boy's coming to terms with his mother's lesbianism and her relationship with a white woman.

Other recommended titles include: *Am I Blue?* edited by Marion Dane Bauer (HarperCollins, \$5.95), a great "sampler" of lesbian and gay stories from both queer and straight writers; *Jack* by A.M. Homes, about a 15-year-old boy dealing with his father's divorce and coming out; *Peter* by Kate Walker, a tale of dirt bike racing and homoeroticism in Australia; *Twelve Days in August* by Liza Ketchum Murrow, soccer teams, homophobia, and peer pressure; and the classic *Annie on My Mind* by Nancy Garden, a tale of a young girl's first lesbian relationship. ▼

The Dungeon



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Seasons

◀ page 45

of our family. Surprised? JOIN THE CLUB!!!!!! It appears that Clifford, husband of yours truly and father to our three natural children, accidentally planted the seeds for Khe Sahn twenty-two years ago during his stint in ... where else? VIETNAM!!!!!! The Dunbar's holiday letter reads more like a cover story in the *National Enquirer*.

The best of the new pieces is "Front Row Center with Thaddeus Bristol," in which a bitter small-town theater critic rips to shreds three holiday productions at the local elementary school. Of one pint-sized star Bristol says, "In the role of Mary, six-year-old Shannon Burke just barely manages to pass herself off as a virgin." Ouch. And of another aspiring young thespian, Bristol writes, "The only bright spot in the entire evening was the presence of Kevin 'Tubby' Matchwell, the eleven-year-old porker who tackled the role of Santa with a beguiling authenticity. The false beard tended to muffle his speech, but they could hear his chafing thighs all the way to the North Pole."

Two other selections don't quite live up to Sedaris' best work. "Christmas Means Giving" tells the story of two competitive families who won't stop giving of themselves until there's nothing left, including body parts. And "Based On A True Story" is about a television executive who extorts money from a small church in order to get an exclusive story from a member of the congregation. Both pieces take too long to deliver their small payoffs.

If you're looking to have yourself a merry little Christmas, you may want to pick up a copy of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. But if you really want to spice up your holidays, skate on down to the bookstore and get *Holidays on Ice*. ▼

BOOKS

Longhorn angst

by Robert Julian

Execution Texas: 1987 by D. Travers Scott; St. Martin's Press, \$21

In his first novel, D. Travers Scott re-creates the small-town world of 17-year-old Seeger King in *Execution, Texas*, during the summer after he graduates from high school. Seeger hangs out with his girlfriend Cordelia

and Kent, the high school wrestler who has become the object of his sexual obsessions.

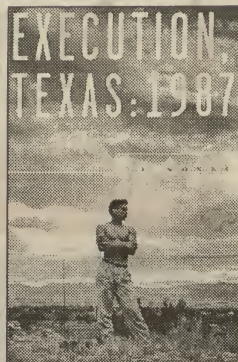
The year is 1987, and for Seeger and his honor society friends, the world at large is full of possibilities. But the world inside the boundaries of *Execution* is one to be escaped through drugs, alcohol, sex and fantasies of every sort.

The bisexual Seeger lives at home with his religious stepmother, Rhonda, and his father,

Abraham, who teaches at the local high school. Joan, Seeger's mom, is away on a lifelong quest for spiritual fulfillment that occasionally requires Seeger's input and participation. With his propensity for visions of the future, Seeger fights back images of the death of Rhonda and Abraham in an automobile accident, at least until those images become a reality.

D. Travers Scott excels in his ability to depict the fragile and

transitional world of late adolescence. Both Seeger and Cordelia, with their wild fantasies and childish games, are seriously engaged in the process of letting go and embracing change. As a writer, Scott breaks no new ground in this coming-of-age story, but he does do a commendable job of creating believable characters and portraying the exquisite pain that accompanies the death of one life and the birth of another. ▼



Barbra

◀ page 40

came back refused.

But once the museum opened, Joachim became harder to ignore. The press loved the story of this quirky venture, and major newspapers from New York to Los Angeles ran light-hearted features about Joachim's venture. Several months after he opened, Joachim found himself giving Marty Erlichman, Streisand's long-time manager, a tour. After complaining about some of the displays, Erlichman apparently decided that Joachim was harmless. "He said, 'You're a fan, aren't you?' He almost made it sound like, 'You're a freak,'" said Joachim. "Of course, the press had made it sound that way."



Paul Smith/Ketia Ltd.

B-B-B-Babs!

Indeed, Joachim remembers how Bryant Gumbel rolled his eyes when introducing a segment about Hello Gorgeous!! on the *Today* show. As a result, he turned down an invitation from David Letterman's bookers when they asked him to guest on the show with Richard Simmons, who has made a routine out of his unrequited infatuation with Streisand. Joachim knew he'd just be the butt of Letterman's bitter humor.

He still gets calls from newspapers and radio stations wanting comments on Streisand, proffering on him a kind of status as spokesman for her fans. "I used to stick up for her on radio programs," he said. "I don't do that anymore, because I don't know who she is. I don't have any direct line to Barbra."

He does, however, have a letter from Barbra. It's *The Letter*.

"For Ken Joachim, A Jewish shrine? Thanks and Best Wishes, Barbra Streisand."

It's displayed under glass for all to see, but when Joachim looks at it, his satisfaction at being ac-

knowledgeed by the object of his efforts is tempered by knowing what he had to go through to get it. First, he was told to expect the letter by a reporter from CNN, and when nothing arrived, he ended up calling the Streisand organization to ask about its status. "Two weeks later, it came," he said. "Yes, I was exhilarated, but part of me disappeared with it because of how I had to beg for it."

Joachim hasn't been shy about communicating his desire for a face-to-face with Streisand. "I've

asked to meet her," he acknowledged. "I was afraid before, but so many people have asked me if I have met her that I wanted to put it to rest. And, for the fans, I think it would be very important for them for her to walk in here."

But when Joachim asks himself if Streisand would actually like Hello Gorgeous!! should she ever pay a visit, his answer is probably not. "She would say, 'Get rid of this, get rid of that.' I wouldn't have anything left. People have heard her say that she won't come

here because it would upset her."

If Joachim was not obsessed by Streisand before he created Hello Gorgeous!!, he now finds himself obsessing about his relationship with her, as well as with the qualities he once believed set her apart. "She didn't ask for any of this," he said, "so I really can't complain. It should be about the art, not my hang-ups with all this."

Joachim pulled out a letter he recently received from a Barbra fan in Los Angeles to whom he had confided his misgivings. The

fan told him to buck up, that he is providing a valuable service, and that, yes, Barbra has her faults, but that it's part of being human. Joachim didn't appear swayed by this earnest missive.

"I don't really know the direction of all this," he said. "I mean, I am going forward, status quo. I'm not closing. But I know I have to make some changes, either inside of me or" He didn't complete the thought. It was time for the man who is doubting his faith to reopen the shrine. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Lusty lady.

LoXmas

Since you asked, what has always bugged us about Castro culture is how overdetermined it is. The stores are called Body Body, the clerks are body bodies, they're selling muscle tees and lube. So when it comes to pics in the windows of dinner-plate pees and juicy loins — we get it, already.

It's the same way with Xmas culture. Believe it or not, we wouldn't mind a singular tinsel-draped tree or the odd bough of holly here and there. Or one rousing chorus of *Little Drummer Boy*. It's just that Xmas cheer is all over the place in our supposedly secular civic life, and the muzak of paens to the christ child is relentless. Give us a break, already.

Plus, this custom of killing a tree and dragging it into the haus is way too barbaric for us. May as well trim it with a fur coat.

As for our holiday plans, bring on the bagels and lox. Xmas is one of those rare quiet days in the city, a good day to walk through the closed-down neighborhoods, hike in the park. Or make art: one of the revelations of Andy Warhol's diary was that he loved to paint on holidays like July 4th or Dec. 25th, when he had time to work undisturbed.

The accompanying photo shows a lovely lady of The Lusty Lady Theater, the nation's only unionized adult theater, celebrating Xmas in her own special way. For their holiday party, that establishment promised as attractions fire-eating, topless shoeshines, and naked accordion-playing. They welcome women, couples and assorted thrill-seekers in trenchcoats. Merry, indeed. ▼

Sam Russell's *Errant Angel*, part of his exhibit at Quetzal. See Monday.

Fri

Barbra by Halstead

The Christmas Show. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. also 10pm thru 12/21. \$20. Hello Gorgeous, the Barbra Streisand Museum, 549 A Castro. 864-2678.

Basket of Flowers

"America's dandiest Negro singer" Victor Dupree (Brent St. Clair) in cabaret. Fridays at 10pm thru Dec. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Big Bang

"And other rude noises," the New Pickle Circus's gala. Thru 1/4, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$12-22. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

Christmas with Christina Crawford

Marc Huestis presents Mommie Dearest author, interviewed onstage; film screens Fri. & Sat. at 7pm. \$15, benefits Project Open Hand. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro. 863-0611.

Christmas with the Crawfords

Artful Circle Theatre's musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children Christina and Christopher stars Michael Cameron Benbrook, Flynn De Marco, Connie Champagne, more. Wed.-Sat. thru 1/3, call for times. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 621-5455.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thru 2/1, call for times, prices. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonator revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$7. 9, 10 & 11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Hurlyburly

Pour Boys productions presents David Rabe's study of 1984 Hollywood. Fri.-Mon. at 8pm thru 12/22. \$18. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter. 567-6088.

John McGivern Live

Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Just Shut Up and Sing!

Furry foursome the Bearatones/SF's holiday show. Last perf. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Killing My Lobster

Comedy vignettes for the fre-

quently confused. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 12/21. \$9.99. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy. 267-0642.

The Last Hairdresser

Doug Holsclaw's comic deconstruction of the vicious queen, directed by Danny Scheie. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 12/20, call for ticket prices. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

MACT Holiday Party

Men of All Colors Together party. Free, no-host bar. 8pm. Cyberworld Cafe, 528 Folsom. 675-0201.

Nutcracker

Oakland Ballet in the holiday classic. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7pm. \$10-36. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2277.

Unusual Xmas Show

Film by Hima B; music from Bob Barzan, Lee Goland; Happy Ryder; Dylan Star



Sharon McNight returns to the Castro in her holiday show at Josie's Cabaret. See Saturday.

Berkey. \$5-10. 8pm. (Late Night w/Joan Jett Blakk: fetishes, 10pm.) Cabaret Castro, 150 Eureka. 552-6031.

Wayang Bali

ShadowLight Productions presents Balinese shadow play, free. 8pm. Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 648-4461.

Sat

An African

American Antigone Sophocles' tragedy, freely adapted by A Black Box Theatre. \$11. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 12/21. Bannam Place Theatre, 50A Bannam. 775-4291.

The Hard Nut

Mark Morris Dance Group's transmogrification of the Nutcracker. Thru 12/21, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$24-48. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Mele Kelikimaka

Hawaiian Xmas celebration, donation requested for AIDS Mem'l Grove. Doors, 8pm; buffet, 9pm; open show, 10pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Saturday Evening Cabaret

Celtic music, the Mullah's Middle Eastern Band, more. \$10. 8pm. Cell, 2050 Bryant. 648-7562.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Sabrina Matthews, Janice Lipton, David Mills. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

SF Klezmer Experience

Klezmer band in Hanukkah concert, emceed by Josh Kornbluth. \$13 advance, \$15 door. 8:15pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238.

Sharon McNight

Cabaret diva/actor/songwriter in holiday show, opens tonight. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 6pm. \$15. (No shows 12/24-25; 12/31: 8 & 10pm, \$25) Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Star*Light

Antenna Theater's kaleidoscopic version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, a performance environment. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; Sat. also at 10pm, thru 1/4. \$16-18. Marin Headlands Bldg. 952. 621-7797.

Sun

Carols in the Caves

David Auerbach performs Yuletide music on period instruments, free. 2pm. Star Classics, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

A Chanticleer Christmas

Male vocal ensemble's holiday concert. \$19-29. 7pm. St. Ignatius, 650 Parker. 392-4400.

Dybbuk

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents adaptation of the Yiddish classic. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 12/21. \$18-25. ATJT, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

49ers @ Seattle

On big-screen TV, 5pm. Santa visits at 3pm. Cinch Saloon, 1723 Polk. 776-4162.

G40+ Club

Club for gays 40 and older has New Year party: music, food (bring to share). Free. 2pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

Guys & Dolls

Frank Loesser's musical fable of Broadway. Sundays at 4pm thru 12/21. \$30, incl. hors d'oeuvres, champagne & dessert w/cast. Joe Sent Me Club, 603 Hayes #2. 252-8950.

The Hospital: Five Confessions

New installation by Russian artist Ilya Kabakov. Closed 12/22-1/5, runs thru 1/31. Capp Street Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

I'm Dreaming of a Black Christmas

Gay dance party, DJ Patrick Makuakane. \$5 benefits Community Center Project. 6pm-midnight. 1015 Folsom. 552-5900.

We Hate Christmas

Three comic monologues by Bill Bernat, Harmon Leon, and Mark Morey. \$7-12. 8pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Mon

Arlon

Erotic photography on display thru Dec. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

The Barbs

Deborah Colatti's interactive installation in the windows. Center for Visual Art, 713 Washington, Oakland.

Figurative Sculpture

With paintings and drawings. Richard MacDonald Galleries, 445-A Sutter. 263-5490.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Sabrina Matthews, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

John LeFlore

Paintings and drawings, thru 1/1. Royal Ground, 2216 Polk. 474-5957.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy returns: Picasso meets Einstein. Thru 1/4, call for dates & times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34-60. Herbst Theatre, Van Ness at McAllister. 392-4400.

Police Pictures:

"The Photograph as Evidence," identifying the criminal, thru 1/20. \$7. SFMOA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Sam Russell

Pseudo-religious oil paintings. Thru 1/11. Quetzal, 1234 Polk.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadeff, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Tues

The Black Triangle

Photographs by Josef Koudelka, thru 12/31. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Cheap Xmas Party

Queer TV show Electric City's holiday party, Cheap TV awards. Tom Ammann, Danny Williams, Margo St. James, more, free. 7pm. Cyberworld Cafe, 528 Folsom. 861-7131.



Nellie Cravens (left) and Chris Tarjan (right) in *Shear Madness* at the Mason Street Theatre. See Thursday.

Endangered Species:

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/15, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Just Paper

Unframed works on paper by Katrien Maenhaut, Richard Ganci, more. Last day. SF-MOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy

Jewish comedy show: Henry Youngman, Charlie Varon, Judith Sloan, Lisa Geduldig. Tues.-Fri. 6pm dinner show, \$45; 9:30pm cocktail show, \$30. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific. 522-3737.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitational," ritual drinking cups in

many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Stuart. 543-8880.

Not Fade Away

Photographs by rock 'n' roll photographer Jim Marshall, thru Dec. Serge Sorokko Gallery, 231 Grant. 421-7770.

Over the Line

Drawings by J. Martin Rodriguez, Scooter, Tim Jag, more. Thru 1/7. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

The Small Trades

Photographs by Irving Penn, with Nicholas Nixon: Bebe & Me, thru 12/24. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Teapot Invitational

Teapots by ceramic and glass artists including Leah Hardy, Casey O'Connor, more. Thru 1/30. Dorothy Weiss Gallery, 256 Sutter. 397-3611.

Wed 24

Alaska Gold:

Life on the New Frontier ex-

hibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Thru 1/3. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Anthony

Installation by Harrell Fletcher & Jon Rubin: life of Art Institute student Anthony Powers, thru 1/25. Project Space, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza, holiday performances. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. \$18-45. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, thru 1/18. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Between Culture and Commerce

Two years of prints, multiples and artist books by Rebecca Bollinger, Rex Ray, Carol Selter, more. Thru 12/31. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Biohazard

116th Annual Exhibition examines technological constructions, biological breakdowns. Thru 1/25. Walter/ McBean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 749-4588.

A Christmas Carol

ACT presents the holiday play adapted from Dickens novel. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit, Wed.-Sun. thru 1/18. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

The San Francisco Show

Photographs of the city by Paula Chamlee, Ken Miller, and Jerry Stoll. Thru 1/3. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-4641.

Ibur 25

Being Jewish on Christmas

Storytelling, music, videos, computer lab. \$5. 11am-6pm. Jewish Museum SF, 121 Stuart. 543-2090, x212.

Shear Madness

Comedy whodunit set in unisex salon, holiday schedule. Tonight at 8pm; call for dates and times thru 1/4. \$28-35. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

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Mara Hobel as Christina Crawford (left) and Faye Dunaway as Joan Crawford (right) in *Mommie Dearest*, screening as part of Christmas with Christina Crawford at the Castro Theater. See Friday.

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Thanks for the memories – Part 1

by Mister Marcus

The year 1997 had its ups and downs! Thankfully, it was mostly up, except for the absent Mr. San Francisco Leather (and still no word from him!). The leather community, titleholders, clubs and various talented people have done their share of fundraising events and even helped others with theirs!

Of course, none of this could happen without the volunteers – an inadequate word for the people who are behind the scenes doing everything imaginable to make a benefit successful. For every success, there is blood, sweat and – yes – sometimes tears. Altruism is alive and well here!

There were scores of events in 1997 and, of course, not all of them can be listed here. However, they are memorable either for the big bucks they raised or because they were fun and festive.

January

It was the lunar year of the Ox (4695). The LURE in New York and the Faultline in LA celebrated their third anniversaries, and the SF GDI their 23rd. Mike Siemer of Kansas City won the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather title at the Centaur MC's 13th annual leather weekend in Washington, D.C. The uniform weekend in Portland was a big success, and André English won the January '98 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar. The Backdrop, a new sex club, opened in San Jose, and nobody's heard a word since. Bob Goldfarb of San Diego won the February '98 spot on the BCC and eventually moved here.

February

The Defenders MC celebrated its third anniversary, and the Cal Eagles MC its 13th. The Pantheon of Leather voters gave nods to our own Audrey Joseph and Daniel Sonnenfeld, and Dallas Eagle owner Mark Frazier won Man of the Year and Pat Baille (formerly of San Jose) won Woman of the Year. Jacques Hoppe resigned from Drummer's office in Amsterdam, and Bob Davolt snuck quietly into town to assume manage-



Ms. San Diego Leather winners (l to r): Annie Romano, winner; Cathy Milne, first runner-up; and Jona Briggs, second runner-up. Annie will compete at IMsL next July.

ment of the magazine's SF office. Jacques Michaels and Veronda Lanai won the royal crowns at the coronation, and Jim Parton became International Mr. Bear. Thumper and Aurelia won SF Dyke Daddy and Dyke Mommy. The Golden Gate Guards topped all the clubs at the ICF Motorcycle Awards, while Bruce McCutcheon won Rider of the Year and Dan Embry took Buddy Rider honors. Jimmy Cassiol won Mr. March; Mark Seeba, Mr. April; and Christopher Ward, Mr. May, on the BCC. The 15 Association celebrated its 15th, again at the Cliff House.

March

Nominations began pouring in for the Golden Dildeaux Awards. Leif Smith won the Mr. Castro Station Leather title; Brian Turner copped top honors at The Edge; Jesus Martinez took the title at the Wooden Horse; Tom Powers was the victor at Daddy's; and Cruz Lennox

emerged the winner at the Eagle on the way to Mr. SF Leather. David Edwards won the June spot on the BCC, and the dashing Vince Edd won the Mr. Washington State Leather title in Seattle and will compete in 1998 at International Mr. Leather.

April

American Brotherhood Weekend grew up majestically in Washington, D.C., with new producers Jim Cobb and Roger Fleming. Jim Raymond won American Leatherman; Leslie Anderson, Leatherwoman; and for the first time ever, a woman became American Leatherboy. The SF Eagle celebrated its 16th anniversary under the old management. Tom Powers garnered the Mr. SF Leather title and vanished from sight in June! Ken Lyght won the July spot on the BCC; "Lion" of Novato became Mr. August; and Andy Shore, Mr. September. Levi Strauss advised leather stores and other businesses with sex toys that they would no longer supply 501s or any other type of jeans to them;

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Wed.-Fri., Dec. 17-19

The Bearatones in concert at Josie's Cabaret in "Shut Up and Sing" at 2000 each night. \$10. Call 861-7933 to reserve!

Wednesday, Dec. 17

It's Christmas at Daddy's, so drop in for some drink specials and whatever Philip's crew has planned, beginning at 2000.

Underwear Buddies meet at 933 Harrison; the doors open at 2030. Clothes check enforced. Call 863-HEAD.

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets at a South of Market location. Call 626-3737 for details – and wear your leather!

Thursday, Dec. 18

Constantines MC beer bust at Daddy's for \$7, 2000-2300. Santa may drop in...I think he was invited! Check the chimney!

Naked Underwear Party at the Powerhouse, with a \$3 cover charge after 2000. Best butt competition, go-go boys, Wittgenstein discussion, un-

derwear only. Partly to benefit PAWS. Call 552-8689. Tank tops OK.

Friday, Dec. 19

Exiles of SF meet at the Women's Building for "Smut on the Screen." Call 487-5710 for details.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison from 2200 on. Much thanks to Blow Buddies for this community service!

Saturday, Dec. 20

BOSF beer bust at the Lone Star, 1500-1900, \$6. Bring unwrapped toy and get five free raffle tickets. Santa will be there, too!

Pediatric AIDS Ward benefit at Club Townsend, \$25 and an unwrapped toy befitting the "Cowboy Christmas" theme. Food by Harvey's, lots of entertainment and a hosted bar! Thanks, Audrey!

Friday, Dec. 26

The Sling presents a cigar party and the usual fun, with doors open 2200-0100, for a paltry \$12 at 926 Natoma Street. Festivities go until 0300 on Sunday morning!

Diamond jubilee

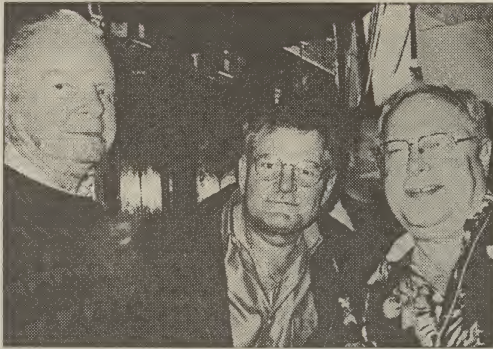
by Sweet Lips

Yes, you'd hardly know it to look at me, but I recently celebrated my diamond (75th) birthday. I want to thank everyone who made my natal day such a spectacular success. An extra-special thank you goes out to the delightful L. James for the fantastic Sweet Lips memorabilia wall that he created. You must troll — uh, stroll — down to the ever-scenic Polk Rendezvous for a look-see and a libation!

Well, it seems that a couple of my B.A.R. cohorts got their panties in a twist over that recent item in my column concerning their forays into certain South of Market *boîtes de plaisir*. Guilty consciences, girls? I do protest that it was all for your own benefit. Just remember that it's all good, it's all love — and scrub vigorously in those hard-to-reach places.

Empress José I, the Widow Norton and Dowager Grandmother of Us All, just celebrated her 75th birthday. (I can scarcely believe it myself, but I'm older than her!) According to all accounts, it was a festive and rather ribald affair this past Friday, Dec. 12, at the Giraffe Video Lounge on Polk Street.

Good Vibrations "Sex Toys You Wish Existed" contest was an often hilarious and raunchy event held at their SF store Nov. 24. Judges included porn diva Nina (*Boogie Nights*) Hartley as the "celebrity judge." First prize (\$500) went to the designer of "Wonder Pants": "Where average bicycling bottoms offer only padding, Wonder Pants provides a gel-like, two-lipped cradle. Wonder Pants provides the rider with added incentive to pedal!" So if you see me riding my Schwinn up Polk Street, you'll



Sweet Lips, Don Sexton and Steve Suss celebrate Lips' big debut.

know better than to interrupt me! Second prize (\$250) was awarded to the creator of the "Whipping Harness" (are you reading this, Greta?), and third prize (\$100) was bestowed on the inventor of the "Pin-Wheel Tongue Vibe." And a good time was definitely had by all!

Don't miss the Lone Star beer bust with the inimitable Kristy Cruise this Sunday, Dec. 21, 4-8 p.m. La Cruise is a real

blast and an ursine favorite! As part of my birthday extravaganza, I spent a week in Portland, Ore., with the effervescent Bart Dreyer. I had a ball and then some with Steve Suss (Embers/Avenue) and Don Sexton (Silverado). They were also in SF for my birthday and wore me out!

Those nice folks at the National AIDS Memorial Grove asked me to inform you that because of probable inclement weather, workdays at the grove in January and February have been canceled. The first scheduled workday is Saturday, March 21. The NAMG is in dire need of more workday captains. Please call (415) 750-

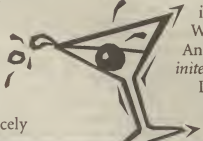
8340 if you would like to volunteer for this post.

Mark your calendars in red for Saturday, Dec. 20. That's when the redoubtable PR will be throwing its Rendezvous Electric Christmas Party, with *hors d'oeuvres* from 6 p.m. on. The Electric City Christmas Show is at 8 p.m., with special guests Gypsy, Rice Patty and others. Dancing is from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Complimentary Electric Punch will be served 7-8 p.m., along with Recharge 2-4-1 drinks. The first 50 people receive a free Christmas buzz!

This Sunday, Dec. 21, it's the 49ers Christmas game! The Niners play the Seattle Seahawks at 5 p.m. Come enjoy the PR's Christmas beer bust, 4-9 p.m., with special 49er prizes and various Christmas door prizes as well (3-10 p.m.). Win a VCR or a microwave! Other surprises!

Polk Street is looking especially lovely this Yuletide! All the bars are really getting in the spirit! Special kudos to the New Bill Saloon — their Christmas tree is always truly fabulous!

Golly, gosh and goddamn! Yes, 1997 is breathing its last gasps as you peruse this, gentle reader! It's time for my New Year's resolutions! What a list that will be! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ page 50

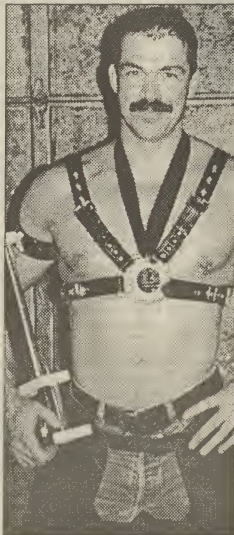
the threatened boycott never materialized. Bears of San Francisco presented \$24,000 to their beneficiaries from Bear Rendezvous! Don "Ho" Tse won most of the Golden Dildeaux Awards, and George Carreras emerged as the Golden Boy (Best All-Around Sex). He later got married for a while, but is single again and really getting his share!

May

The 19th annual International Mr. Leather weekend in Chicago broke attendance records, as Kevin Cwayna of Minneapolis took the title, a first for Minnesota. "Driller" of SF won the International Bootblack title. The regional Mr. Drummer contests kicked off in Dallas with the Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer going to Ken Claude of Houston. Cory Iwatsu became Mr. October on the BCC; Ingu Yun, Mr. November; and the tantalizing Glennon Sutter finished the year by coping the December spot. The AIDS Emergency Fund dinner was as fabulous as could be at the Downtown Marriott, with lots of honors given out.

June

The Gay Freedom Day Parade was one of the best weather-wise, plus lots of great floats. Mark



Mr. Leather Florida 1997 Ray Castro will compete at IML. He was first runner-up in Mr. Drummer '95.

Seeba won the cover spot on the 1998 calendar, which was photographed entirely in color by Jim Wigler. Mr. SF Leather Tom Powers vanished. Regional Drummer contests continued with Bob Davolt running himself ragged making it to most of them. What

everyone thought was just a whim became a reality as my daughter, Queen Cougar, announced her move to Pennsylvania to become the "wife" of International Ms. Leather Jill Carter and the divine Viola Johnson, and shipped her furniture east. Invitations went out for International Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon's "Gathering of Eagles" 4th of July weekend. Said soiree generated lots of dialogue by those who didn't get invited in the form of e-mail, voice mail, letters and smoke signals (especially from Omaha, Nebraska!). Rumor has it that Gathering of Eagles II will be the next 4th of July. Really, Kyle?

Corners of our minds

Part II of my stroll down memory lane is next week. Meanwhile, enjoy all the parties and gatherings. A belated happy birthday to The Dowager Empress José, who celebrated his 75th with much fanfare last Friday at The Giraffe. Over at Daddy's, Mr. Northeast Drummer Will Clark, with "San Francisco's own" Frank Parker and Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown, managed to raise over \$800 for the Stop AIDS Project. Fun night! On Sunday night, the Forum of SF had its annual Christmas party at the Powerhouse, with all the usual suspects and a fabulous buffet by Harvey's — not to mention Bob Tate's superb desserts. A great event! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

On the N Judah Nov. 21
Friday, 11/21, 9:30ish, You: tall, short hair, wire glasses, crowded up against opposite door. I: not as tall 6", 180, brn/brn, goatee, slipped out at Civic Center station. ☎ 9102

City Entertainment 11/4 11PM
You: darkskinned on bike. Me: Black male. You walked me to my car. I lost your phone number. Let's connect again. ☎ 9103

Courtyard Cafe Noe Valley 11/23
You were having brunch alone; I was eating with a friend. You're handsome, blond, 20s-30's; I'm fair, reddish-brown hair, clean shaven. We exchanged glances, but it was awkward to connect. Let's talk, meet. ☎ 9104

Mkt St Safeway Nov 16, Sunday
You talked of buying a computer to do autocad. I recommended NCA, then fumbled giving you a number. We exchanged glances, but it was awkward to connect. Let's talk, meet. ☎ 9105

Fri. 11/14 Slow and steamy MUNI
You were sweating. We exchanged glances. You rubbed my stomach and smiled when you and tall friend dined at Civic Center. I gave you towel. Been thinking about you. Call. ☎ 9106

Tail "Gray" at Hole-In-Wall
Met twice briefly, hugged (wonderful!), commented on your loving nature. Want to meet again and take time for you, but haven't seen you for weeks. Please say how to contact you! ☎ 9107

11/26 Noon blond at 18&Diamond
You: BBcap, blonde goatee, killer blue eyes. Me: BBcap, moustache, glasses. Booth looked, turned, looked again. Had appointment. Let's get together for movie/dinner? ☎ 9201

Cookie Hernandez of New York
Where are you? Lived at Civic Center Hotel, worked at Jugs Liquor—Friends with many and Trent during 1980's—Please call Trent. ☎ 9101

11/25 Tues at QT you: stripper
You said that I was cute, like to thank you personally. Me: 6'4" Latin, like to go further with the kiss you gave me. Loved your show. ☎ 9202

Bernie—Please call again
You answered my ad for "lean and muscular Asians," but I couldn't reach you at the phone number you left. Please call. ☎ 9203

San Jose air conditioning guy
We played at buddies on 11/1/97. 6am came fast and we had to leave. Want to finish what we were doing? I really want to play some more. ☎ 9204

Thanksgiving Day @ 18th/Castro
You: WM buying flowers for dinner in Santa Rosa. Me: AM in black car going to Pleasanton. We bid each other a safe trip and Happy Thanksgiving. Let's Meet!!! ☎ 9205

Matt
We partied for hours with two other guys Friday night 12/5. You wonderful butthole, hot mouth. Let's do it again. Call me, Robert. ☎ 9303

SunNov30SellingPlantsOn10thSt.
Had brief conversation. I live close by. I think you're very sexy. Let's talk. ☎ 9206

J-Church outboud 3 Dec.
9:05PM. U: cute, shorter dude (Jewish or Irish?), full beard & stache reading Chron re 49's. Me: sat beside ya trying to compose some thoughts. Would love to do coffee with you, can we? ☎ 9301

Civil Sex Fri, Nov. 28
I was standing in line ahead of you w/ motorcycle helmet. You barely made it in, ended up in front row. Want to ride w/ me sometime? ☎ 9306

Pleasuredome at closing Dec. 7
You brown hair, beard, baseball cap with friends forward left of bar. I the asian with friends by scaffold. We smiled. Would you like to meet? Maybe go dancing? Call S 9302

Are you Bill?
You said no at 16th and Sanchez. You, short holding Tower Records bag. I was with a male & female friend. Would like to know your name and more. ☎ 9304

David Folsom Gulch 12/6 1100AM
You pulled up in red suzu as I walked in. We were fast, furious, and very hot. I would love longer repeat. If you would too, call me. ☎ 9305

Robert in St. Mary's T-shirt
We met at Hollywood Books in Oakland on Mon 12/8. Kissing and caressing your body was fantastic. Let's meet again for an extended session of cuddling, kissing, and??? In comfort. ☎ 9312

B at Daddy's Thurs. Nov. 20
Met you at the Constantines Bust. You were into anything, including a 3-way. You were great at it, I want you back in our sty. Call J & J. ☎ 9310

Tired of D City? Yo head South
4 lotsa hot cumy R&R w/Xnavy San Diegan. Milk a big hot hard cut Irish dick dry. Sleep in my strong arms. 6', 160#, Br/Br, balding, buzz, stach, goatee. ☎ 9108

Looking for a friend
35o Asian looking for decent GWM clean cut self-supporting for LTR no BS & no drugs, loves to take long walks and just be with one person. Blondes/redheads interested in knowing you! ☎ 9109

Real catch
Healthy HIV+ top, 5'8", 135lbs, brn/hazi, 45, quick wit, strong personality nd fantastically loyal seeks partner, HIV+, stocky bottom, passionate, intense character. ☎ 9111

In search of slave
LTR for submissive GWM under 35, 5'10" or less, with slim, tight body, NS, NS to include BD, SM, boot worship, dog training, and other disciplines. ☎ 9112

Is there just Mr. Normal?
Looking for quality man—25-40, mature, professional, sense of humor, NS, ND, good shape. I'm 30yo, 6'1", 180lbs, brn/brn, buzz cut, goatee, tattoos, fun loving, easy going. ☎ 9113

East Bay teddy bear
Me: 6', 220#, 36" waist, 48yo, masculine, moustache, short S/P hair, NS, HIV-, romantic, realistic, mature. You: preferably beefy, mature, upbeat, facial hair, fun, conversational, romantic. Let's share stories. ☎ 9114

Hot JO over-sexed boyfriend
I day dream about finding an ambitious, fun guy looking for successful partner. I have a lot to offer, so should you (25-45 yo) Me: gdlng, 45, Br/Br, 5'9", 170, moust, in-shape, always horny. ☎ 9115

Hunky handsome loving package
Quality GWM wants passionate relationship and possible LTR. I'm 6'2, 190#, 40s, 45°C, 15", a very muscled, hot Italian, soulful, loyal, exclusive, sinner, talented, HIV pos. non-progressive, professional, sexually charged from puppy to leather. Looking for similar 30-40yo GWM who wants to look me in the heart, die for my body and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Serious only. Please call ☎ 9116

Looking for love
GWM, prof, young 50's, 5'11, 175#, HIV-. Want to meet W/H/LW/M 40-50's, phy. fit, I enjoy the outdoors, love to cuddle. Waiting for your call. ☎ 9117

Handsome big bro.
Seeks his boyish younger half. I'm 40+ (you wouldn't guess it), 5'9, darkhaired, lean, hairy-chested, HIV-, Interests: books, movies, theater, friends. You: cute, slender, big hearted...enjoy kissing, cuddling. Intelligence A+. ☎ 9118

Latino studs wanted
by GWM for sex and/or dating. I'm 34, 5'10, 153#, bottom to versatile, into gym, jogging, biking, hiking, books, film, looking for GLM 5'9+, 24-37, good shape top to versatile. ☎ 9119

A good man is hard to find
Sonoma area Cuban GWM, 50, healthy, HIV, great body, looking for a man who enjoyed serving another man. Me: hairy, well-hung, very loving, nice looking, NS, N/D. Try me. ☎ 9120

Extra, extra, read all about it.
This 38 yo, GWM wants a single man, experienced in love preferred, but I'll accept trainee. You be open to love and more. ☎ 9121

Friendship first, then...
Me: 30, blonde, introspective, intuitive, romantic, intelligent, compassionate, earthy. You: around 26-36, sincere, focused, relationship-oriented. Pluses: Latino or Asian, no drugs, leather-oriented. ☎ 9126

Handsome Cowboy
Are you very masculine yet gentle, intelligent and handsome yet down to earth, affectionate with moustache and heart of gold, likes the city but loves the open country. I'm GWM 30 all these and more. Romantic, sexy, loyal, muscular, a great catch, UB2. ☎ 9152

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2, 185lbs, into fitness, travel romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV-, extremely well-hung Latin man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9207

Love dominant tops
GWM 45, 165#, 6', seeks men who are aggressive in bed, especially for long time fucking on regular meetings. Yours for pleasure+sex. ☎ 9208

I want you!
Wanted: one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sexual healing. Offered: one GWM top, late 40's ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. ☎ 9209

Feel my body, taste my passion,
quench my desire and fulfill me. GWM, 38, 5'7, 140, shaved head, moustache, goatee and tattoos. ☎ 9210

When a man needs a man...
Sounds familiar? Well, we've something in common. Attractive GAM, mid 30's, affectionate, romantic, fun ISO tall goodlooking GWM, 30's, sim. qualities for love, friendship, outdoors & more. ☎ 9211

A good home
offered to trim, honest guy under 30 by adventurous, fun-loving, masculine guy. Interest in long-term relationship, travel and art a plus. ☎ 9212

Sonoma Co. country bear buddy
Seeks other well-endowed, tough-titled, hairy, muscled bruns for consensual play. Me: GWM, 50, 5'10, stocky, cute, silver beard. Prefer mutual deep throat head. You: rigid honey shaft, willing & able. ☎ 9213

Seeking special man
GWM seeks on-going sexual relationship with sensual GM who enjoys being touched, handled, stroked, loved, massaged, and masturbated by another guy. I'm 51, 5'8, 175#, brn/blue, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9214

Poz bottom seeks Poz top
Good-looking, Indiana, healthy, sexy, GWM, bottom ISO dom. top for possible LTR. I'm 35, 6', 165, 7.5u/c, goatee, short thinning hair. You be 32-42, masc. ☎ 9215

W/M 53 seeks daytime friend.
I'm a S.F. native. 5'11, 185# with night job. I enjoy interesting people. Older/younger/G/bi/STR welcome. I'm in Daly City and discreet. ☎ 9216

Testosterone
At first, I (attractive, sexy, GBM) admit, I really wanted power. But now, I don't know, maybe the trappings of power (attractive, tall, GWM) would be enough. ☎ 9217

Good communicator wanted
Handsome fun-loving GWM, early 30's, 5'1, brn/bl, seeks intelligent, responsible, stable, mature, non-smoking caucasian/latin 30-40; must have varied interests and be good-natured, for possible LTR. ☎ 9218

Cute boy for sexy older man 53+
I'm 28, 6'1, 159#, HIV- with striking looks, body and mind, a boy that many naughty older men desire. I have a great deal to offer to other exceptional men of class only. ☎ 9219

Hispanic chub seeking LTR
Me: 6'1, 300#, smooth, blk/hzi, late 20s, clean cut. You: under 40, professional, easy going, fun, and masculine. Seeking chasers for LTR—serious only. ☎ 9220

Lonely glam boy
Long blonde hair, loves West Hollywood, desires very oral friendship. Likes long hair videos, poker, black-jack, skiing. Nice body, sexually pleasing, late 30s. ☎ 9221

Attractive, Adventurous, & Rich
GWM, 40s, 5'8, 177, br/gr, clean-shaven. Extremely successful, happy, humorous, down-to-earth, loves life/people. ISO GWM/GLM for friendship, dating, sex. Be under 30, cute, thin. Me: top. You: bottom. ☎ 9222

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 57, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV-, totally obedient, under 40, willing to give over control, B/D, S/M. My agenda, my way. Will train. ☎ 9314

Single...but looking
5'8, nice swimmers build, gym-toned, smooth, 31, Asian. Down to earth, friendly and sincere. Not hard on the eyes. Freer men with dark features. No fems, drugs, or smokers. ☎ 9315

Looking for Mr. Moustache
Very handsome GWM, 30, muscular, masculine, down to Earth and good hearted, mostly bottom. Looking for masculine man with moustache who is mostly top and knows how to give and receive real love. ☎ 9316

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 9318

Cute guy seeks cute guy
26yr cute alternative shy guy tired of clubs seeking others, hanging out, films, music, Beastie Boys, shows, art. Ready for more, 150, br/br, laid back yet adventurous. ☎ 9319

Seeking love truth and a fuck
with an older man. Be affectionate, cultured and literate. Am not politically correct or gym-toned. Adore wine, opera and coupling. GWM, 45, 180#, HIV-, 6'2, well-endowed bottom. ☎ 9320

Passionate lover seeks same
Me: 40ish, handsome, hung, good shape, affectionate top, great kiss, HIV+, spiritual seeker. You: 30ish, goodlooking, sim, passionate about life (& hopefully me). Loves making love, honest and sincere. ☎ 9326

Answer this one...

If you're serious about relationships, GWM, 38, 5'10, 150#, attractive, HIV-, masculine, stable, focus on career, now ready for fun and love, possible LTR. Versatile, mostly bottom. Seeks similar, 35-45, any race. ☎ 9321

You don't know how good you looked to me. You, my masculine, bearded L.C.U., evening, Me, lonely, too many cocktails, black robe, gold coin necklace. You, SF Gen. Me out 4 hours. Love. ☎ 9322

How to meet a rich boy to love I am a good-looking 41 year old gay white male interested in being a good husband to guys with a preference for leather bottoms, too. ☎ 9323

Handsome bottom ISO top 4 LTR attractive Greek/Hispanic, 5'7, 130#, 28" waist, bright, passionate, 33yo non-fem seeks in-shape manly man who is taller, 32-42, handsome and hung. Call for more details. ☎ 9324

Intelligent & muscular
GWM, muscular, 45, prof, financially secure w/ large home seeking masculine, muscular partner (20-40's) for articulate and intelligent conversation, outings, hot sex, travel and general misbehavior. Smooth muscular body a must! ☎ 9325

32man seeking man over 65 32years old, 5'10, 163#, loving & affectionate & clean, not into bar. Like ocean, quiet evenings. Seeking loving and romantic man over 65 for LTR. ☎ 9327

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Fat & big men into dildos
GBM, 5'11, 240#, big tits, huge seeks Big and Fat men into mutual dildo pleasure. Men with big tits, belly and butt. Discretion, please. ☎ 9122

GWM needs Asian boy
Hot stud w/ 8" tool needs to be serviced by GA. Am 100% top, so will need hot mouth and ass. ☎ 9123

Queer for big dickd JO
Big dickd nice looking, masculine guy seeking others for big dickd mutual masturbation. Thickness a plus. No drugs or alcohol. ☎ 9124

Cute GAM, 25yo, 5'6, 116#
Smooth and cute, looking for GWM, 19-37yo, HIV- top proportionate, cute with light white ass for hot times. Be attractive, versatile and into having a good time. ☎ 9125

Leatherman Give n take
Very muscled part-time leather man, 6'2, 185#, 40yo, 46"C, 16"A, sexually wild, versatile, looking for butt play buddy and possible relationship with 25-40yo, also very muscled with preferred facial hair, who wants to connect emotionally and physically with another top notch man. Call: ☎ 9127

Cock service
GWM, late 40's, trim, nice looking, I enjoy giving head to mature men. If you're trim, late 50's or older, clean, HIV-, call me! No reciprocation necessary. Your place. ☎ 9128

A1 Oral service delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 9129

Take me down
Seeking partners for wrestling, etc. if the chemistry mixes. GWM prof 35yo, 5'7, 150, solid, br/b, moustache. Serious only. ☎ 9130

SF over 50 Gumbjob wntd eyes
45, WM, 5'10, 165#, HIV-, med bld, br/b, musta, 7X51/2 cut cocking meat kicks back for hungry milker (no teeth) on reg basis. Serious gum massagers only. Leave #. ☎ 9131

Full leather daddy otter seeks
full leather daddy bear in SF. Looking for older versatile masculine hr/sute man in shape, no drugs, scat. Me: 41, 5'11, 150, and very playful. ☎ 9132

Enema Play
Muscular man, new to scene, needs experienced enema man to introduce him to the pleasures of asshole cleansing. ☎ 9133

Seeking smegma
GWM seeks uncut GM bearing and carrying smegma. Object: fun and games and sensual delights. I'm 51, 5'8, 175#, brn/blue, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9134

Old enough to be your dad
strong enough to be your master; hot enough to be your fantasy. I'm looking for a young, fit bottom boy committed to service and anal pleasure. ☎ 9135

Wanted: big firm butt
Versatile, 5'11, well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/ big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 9229

Mouth eager to please
Need someone to explode your balls? Want a soft tongue and throat to explore your piss slit? Are you horny, Asian, Latin, etc? Call now. Same day/night call back. ☎ 9136

Hunting for a houseboy!
Professional, financially secure, muscular GWM master, 40, seeking very musc. bodybuilder houseboy, 20-30. Must be a submissive, muscular bottom and enjoy taking orders. F/T, P/T muscleboys only! ☎ 9137

Sex-starved in Sonoma county
Me: hungry, middle-aged, love rimming/sucking, fun, healthy, attractive, generous. You: 18-35, horny, not fat, love getting sucked, rimmed, not a twaker. Daytimes best. ☎ 9138

I wanna suck your butt
Castro Italian like 44, 6', 190, mst & goatee, rugged build looking for studs who like to be eaten. Late nite sex. ☎ 9139

New buddy East Bay or SF
Tall, Asian, handsome, hung WM, 36, seeks HIV- younger WM to kick back, watch hot male videos with. Into massage and intense oral sessions with mostly smooth, slender to average guys. ☎ 9140

GWM 54yrs 5'2 HIV-
116# with hot tight clean hairy little ass. Need: be played with by fingers, hand or cock. Also work on my balls hard. I love sucking cock. ☎ 9141

Rare and rewarding adventures
Hedonistic and energetic topman, 18-32 and impressively built overall, sought for bold physique exhibition and appreciation by perverted artiste. If straight or bi, his shapely, glamorous WF partner, 25, can play. ☎ 9142

Questions only you can answer:
Am I your best cocksucker ever? Will I get you to shoot your biggest load yet in drilling spurts? Let's find out soon! ☎ 9223

Asian/Happa muscle tribe
You are muscular, defined and way into sharing your body in a safe and nurturing brotherhood of sensual creativity. Shy to assertive: grow at your own pace. Call for details. ☎ 9224

Cowboy leather S&M
Hot 6'2 225# w/ full cowboy gear (chaps, spurs, boots, etc.) wants man with some interest for sex and s/m (crops, whips, etc.) fantasy ☎ 9225

Hung guys wanted!!! I'm looking for guys who are hung 9 inches or better for fun and good times. ☎ 9226

Raunch buddies wanted by
masc. WM 35 into dirty butt plowing, mutual scat scenes, do public bathrooms turn you on too? ☎ 9227

Mulatto guy sexy intelligent,
educated, good-looking, light-skinned. I'm looking for the right guy for fun and good times. ☎ 9228

Round solid chunky beefy butts
Colossal, herculean butts sought for mutual oral pleasure. HIV- a must. Possible 3-ways. Smooth and slim preferred but not exclusive. Age and looks no problem. ☎ 9230

"1953 Big Taurus" fully loaded
Big 8 in the floor, clean tailpipe, firm bumper. Curb weight 180#. Wheel-base 5'11. Mocha exterior with sheepskin seat covers-seeks young driver with big hands and feet. ☎ 9231

Tired of women
50 year old Wm 6 feet 185# HIV- and healthy, recently divorced wants to explore safe sex with a man. ☎ 9232

Hot piece of ass wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 38, 190#, 6'1, great shape! Seeks boys/ men 25-45, thin to muscular, hard body required, who like to service dick and get fucked. Not S&M. ☎ 9233

Uncut men only
GWM, 39, 6', 180, uncut and well-endowed would like to meet other in-shape uncut men 25-50 for adventure. ☎ 9234

Oakland guy wants black top(s)
to service. Me: 5'11, WM, HIV-neg, to work up your cock and balls with my throat and ass. Let's "get-together." ☎ 9235

Gourmet cocksucking
has nothing to do with how big your meat is but everything to do with how big your load is. I'm real good at getting you to shoot more than you thought you could. ☎ 9236

On your knees, boy!
Masc, musc, GWM, 40's, seeking musc boy to train. Lots of rope, leather, and chain assures obedience, and a playroom assures privacy. You: 20's to 40's, hard muscular, smooth body that can handle a good workout. ☎ 9237

Looking for Latinos, low hangers,
Tall, Asians, geeks, foreskin, tattoos, ass spanking, perky nipple, versatile, fun dudes with moderate to no body hair. ☎ 9238

Fun for the holidays
GW masculine man with facial and or body fur wanted for goodlooking GWM stach, br/b, 43, mod fur, 5'8, 150, athletic. LT br-blond A+. ☎ 9238

Hey boys with big toys and ears
WM very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hungry hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty regular phone sex. ☎ 9239

Seeking discreet lowbuddys
Professional business mens group. Santa Rosa-Sebastopol area-private club, home, carry plenty of liquid, cheese, arom to share same. ☎ 9230

Whack it off
Do you like to give hand jobs??? GWM, 51, 5'8, 175#, brn/blue, beard, HIV-, wishes to get jacked off by another guy. ☎ 9231

Senior GWM
60's, 5'6, 135#, in search of any age race size to obey my commands. Mid-penisula. My place. ☎ 9232

Always horny? Get sucked!
Hot mouth, tongue takes loads from slim, trim, well-hung guys. Multiple loads A+. ☎ 9233

How many ways can I say...
I wanna eat you ass. Late Castro night sex 12-5am by hot, Italian stud, 44, 6', 190, goatee. Can suck ass for hours. ☎ 9234

Ready to be fucked.
If you are an "experienced" top and you want to fuck it real...I'm ready for you. GBM, shaved, goatee, 39, 5'11, 147#, w/ ass that's always ready 2B fucked. Call now. ☎ 9235

The Tao of the showtune.
Accompanist/vocal couch sought by self-proclaimed star for befeiti, performances. Union scale+ prof. oral exotic massage therapy. ☎ 9237

Cock slave wanted
I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. Have sling, bondage bar, toys, etc. Take care of my dick, I'll take care of your needs. ☎ 9238

ISO hot man fuck sex
Very goodlooking GWM 30, bottom (HIV-neg) wants hot top weight-height proportion with facial hair to have wild yet sane get togethers. I'm all masculine wanting same. NS, ND, hairy bodies a plus. Let's just do it. ☎ 9239

Voyage to Uranus
Cleancut GLM seeks bottom GWM & Glim 25-40 into having their clean, smooth hot rears safely checked out with toys/non-scat or leather/HIV-call for probe launch. ☎ 9241

Ready to be fucked
If you are an experienced top and you want to fuck it raw...I'm ready for you. GBM, masc, tri, goatee, 39, 5'11, w/ ass that's always hot, wet and ready to be fucked. Call now. ☎ 9240

Afternoon sex buddy wanted
Early evening too. Sex: assmassage-erotic spanking, me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5, 250#, football players build. Oral topman. You: attrac GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body-hair, nice buns. ☎ 9242

LESBIAN

Let me hang on your every word
Serenade you-fall all over myself trying...I'm not like all the other soft-breaches. Try me, I wear leave when I scream your name. ☎ 9243

FETISHES

Need a change?
44yo goodlooking big guy seeks guys 30-50 for wearing and using diapers and plastic pants. Let's cuddle and fondle each other's wet little diapers. Ready for a change? I'll do it. ☎ 9143

Funny foot fun
GWM, 35, 6'3, gym-toned, bi/bi/sk seeking funny feet on hot men, turn ons: nylon socks, sheer socks, latin men, daddy types, hung, hairy, kinky sex too? HIV- ☎ 9144

Where are the gloryholes?
All the ones I knew of have been plugged up. There's got to be more out there somewhere! Could you help me find more current ones, especially northeast of SF? Information rewarded by goodlooking guy with you on the other side. ☎ 9145

Fireman wanted
Are you hot and horny, ready to put out my flames? Come and fulfill my fireman fantasies. ☎ 9146

Spanking and assplay
Cute semi-chubby man, young looking 41, 5'9, 200, needs nipple pleasuring, spanking, anal toys (I supply), humiliation. Non-reciprocal and safe play only! Younger men preferred. ☎ 9147

Bike butt needs rear end work
Athletic, serious cyclist. Hairy daddy, 40's, long dk blond leg and butt hair. Big crankshaft and lugnuts. ISO rearend man to perform quality work in dark light area. Great rewards for dedicated, talented worker. ☎ 9148

Sexy stud required
38 yo goodlooking hard-bodied athlete ISO obedient slave to own. Need to be expert cocksucker. Be into raunch, verbal abuse. Kneel naked at my feet, make me proud. ☎ 9239

Hot guy w/ toe ring sks barefoot
buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8, 140#, HIV- craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship possible. ☎ 9240

Sexy hairy daddies N2 TT, FF
Need to slingslide w/40-60 yrs. HIV+ GWM, GWM, Lev/leather w/ facial hair. Me: GBM, 6'1, 200#, sh/s/p hair, 4 enema, TT, dildo, FF exploration. Versatile* ho, ho, ho!!! ☎ 9241

Attention huge nipples!
Wanted by hot, muscular 39yr old. I will service them for you. I'm very good at what I do, suck, lick, pull, etc. the bigger, the freakier, the better. Serious only. ☎ 9242

Daytime asshole eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 9253

Tit pig
Huge nipples wanted for hot sessions. My toys and technique are unsurpassed. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9348

Het trades ass for humiliation
Circumcised men (chubby ok) are welcome to fuck (with condoms). An "oldie" loves giving oral service to slender or medium built guys, 18-35. No reciprocation. Daytimes best, meet first, then your place or mine. ☎ 9243

Head and rim in Sonoma county
Nice looking, generous middle-aged "dadd" loves giving oral service to slender or medium built guys, 18-35. No reciprocation. Daytimes best, meet first, then your place or mine. ☎ 9244

Santa, I've been good and bad!
Now I need a real Polar-bear Santa to tell me so. Where are you beautiful silver-haired bears with the red and white furry cap? You sit in your chair and let this goodlooking guy work you over until you Ho! Ho! Ho! ☎ 9245

Stud butthole licker
Muscular buck with rimscat, looking for a stud who likes his asshole worshipped by a hot, obedient tounge. Verbal abuse a big plus. ☎ 9246

Hot pig 44yrs ISO: lean leather
bottoms and daddy/boy, master/slaves for heavy, WS, BD, oral abuse, urinal duty, spiltin, slapin, humiliation. Lean n' leathered, serious only. ☎ 9344

Pig bottom for top fist
Insatiable hole for intense fistfing, WS, leather, dark alleys, outdoors, showing off, looking for hairy masculine rugged marathon top. ☎ 9345

Feetheerscktskthssand more
Attractive Latino 31, 190, 5'11, dark features, Virgo, size 12, HIV-, NS, would like to meet Latinos or Whites under 35, NS, ND, into foot fetish, size 11 plus. ☎ 9346

Muscle worship
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing and having his muscles worshipped. Like defined biceps, hot pecs. Asians/blacks a +. ☎ 9347

Scat top
Normal guy, 36, 6', 165#, inshape, HIV-, goodlooking, masc., wants smaller, younger, inshape, boyish, HIV- guy who eats it all, sucks, gets fucked, eats messy butt. ☎ 9349

Bondage bottom needs
young creative top who has desire to put bondage and humiliation together. Limits are mostly bound by lack of imagination, keep my ass exposed in sling, call. ☎ 9350

Big pigslut 4 raunch top 2 use
GWM, 40, 5'9, 250#, brown/hazel, goatee, big chest, handsome. Total pig bottom ISO all dominant, sweaty men to use my hot holes, age, race, looks, size unimportant. All answered. ☎ 9351

Be my whore
Dominant, attractive, top, 40, hung big, seeks cocksucking, buttfucking bottom-boy to use like a whore. No \$\$, just verbal abuse and humiliation. ☎ 9352

Seeking FF & dildo bottom
GWM, HIV+, 38yo, 5'10, 210#, furry, pierced, tattooed. Into full leather & latex including hoods & gloves. Intense butt play, etc. Seeking bottom with similar interest for sex, fun and dating. ☎ 9354

Suck piss cock
WM, mid-50's seeks clean, healthy beer drinker with big uncut cock only 45-55. I lick suck drink. No reciprocation no bottoms no daytime. Your place. ☎ 9355

Farm dirt play
wanted by raunch guy. I am looking for dirty tricks at the farm. I am dgkg, 40's, 6'1, 185#, and a very horny animal. ☎ 9356

East Bay
Nude cut White-Latin men wanted with big clean feet, I would start at your toes then around the world? 50's hot mouth and tongue. You will love it. ☎ 9357

Underwear
While guy smooth, hardware. Let's strip and exchange underwear, see what else happens. You know you love it. Funky ok, but no skin marks. ☎ 9358

The ultimate tit torture
Hogtie and gag me, torture my tits, jerk me off. Sexy 35yo blue eyes, clean shaven, in shape. My age or younger please. ☎ 9359

Big hunk says feed me fist me
Hot, built hunk, 34, with big hole and hungry mouth into scat, WS, FF. You be in good shape, a little heavy ok. A belly is a +. Uncut a +. ☎ 9360

COUPLES

Master and slave HIV+
Seeking muscular dominant top men, any race, 30-45. Must be hung extra big/thick to top pussy boy slave. We are 30's, fit, attractive, white. ☎ 9149

Virile Bi-sexual man...
You can date my wife and fuck her. I'll watch. Also three-ways. She's black and sassy. ☎ 9150

Crazy sexy cool
While guy smooth, great shape, healthy HIV 30's, seeks adventures with GM couples. Interacial especially desired. Unwrap me under your Christmas tree. ☎ 9247

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Sun screen

◀ page 36

from a gay-centered population. We started advertising this year in gay publications. I think it worked. As in any area around the country, the gay population supports independent cinema, and we can count on them for nightly attendance. They're also a discerning crowd, usually more educated than the average film-going audience. That makes them a lot more fun to program for."

Among this year's features was the U.S. premiere of Diego Musiak's *Historias del Clandestinas en la Habana*. This light Argentine/Cuban farce stars Jorge Peruggiorra, of *Strawberry and Chocolate* fame, as a heterosexual Cuban taxi driver who lives at home with his mother.

Alain Berliner's *Ma Vie En Rose*, the favorite of every festival from Montreal to New York, deservedly shared the Best Film prize with Atom Egoyan's new film, *The Sweet Hereafter*. This must-see feature chronicles the obstacles a little boy must surpass to realize his life's goal — to become a little girl so he can marry his best friend (the film opens in San Francisco on December 25).

In George Hickenlooper's *Dogtown*, a stunning young man (Trevor St. John) leaves Hollywood to return to his redneck hometown to visit mom (Karen Black) and his old crush (Mary Stuart Masterson). Everyone thinks he's a star and treats him as such, but that's because they don't know his rolls of cash come from being a high-class male prostitute. It's uneven, but St. John is almost worth the time wasted viewing it.

Kelley Sane's *Francesca Page*, however, is definitely worth a gander. The film, which played in this year's SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, stars New York drag artiste Varla Jean Merman as Rita Page, a former Las Vegas showgirl who wants her untalented daughter to be a big Broadway star. Almodovar regular Rossy de Palma co-stars as a villainess.

Also noteworthy was the truly touching *L'Eleve*, the love story between a young man and the student he was hired to teach. Kenneth Schapiro's *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*, however, is *In and Out* meets *Love, American-Style*. This intensely silly romp has a hunky gay soap opera star getting married to save his career. His boyfriend ain't happy. You won't be either.

On the must-see list is the British offering, *Pousse Cafe*. Gay Gerald has become a New York performance artist in the most frilly sense. Very proper dad is writing the history of cocktails. When Ma leaves home for the arms of a shrimp boat captain, father and son reunite to drink and banter. The dialogue is very Noel Coward.

There is nothing Noel Coward about *Slaves to the Underground*, in which a young Seattle musician must choose between having sex with a gal so she can stay in an all-girl-band or follow her heart and copulate with her old boyfriend. It's a tough decision, so tough she loses control and throws a steak across a restaurant.

Needing to recover from that one, I sat down with actor Ben Gazzara, who was being honored with a retrospective that included John Garfield's gay-tinged *The*

Strange One from 1957, which Vito Russo described as: "perverse sexuality supplements the equally ritualistic behavior of cadets in a southern military school."

But instead of reminiscing about films, Gazzara was more into recalling friends like John Cassavetes, Rod Steiger, and Marlon Brando. When I mentioned Sal Mineo, with whom he once starred, a little smile came over his face. "Sweet Sal! I loved Sal. He was a kid from the neighborhood who got lucky. I didn't know he was so tormented about his sexuality. Sal was a nice boy." And Ben is a nice man, and one of the reasons we cover festivals. ▼

Georges du Fresno as Ludovic in *Ma Vie En Rose*.

Out There

◀ page 35

also an **AIDS activist**. Though the latter title has been pinned to so many lapels it's become superfluous, Shindle's actions suggest the term may still have meaning. At her crowning as Miss America, the 21-year-old Illinois native delivered a platform speech that was hardly the stuff of swimsuit competitions and wholesome smiles. "Every year, thousands of Americans with their whole lives before them are told they will have to fight for every tomorrow," Shindle said. "They are all ages, all races. They are gay, they are straight. They have all been diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS."

Shindle isn't just trying to win brownie points. Her volunteer work with Chicago's Test Positive Aware Network, the NAMES Project, and several AIDS hospices pre-dates her involvement with

the Miss America Pageant. In fact, it dates back to her theatre days in high school, when she "suddenly saw it all around her."

Lucky us, we had a chance to chat with Miss America before the quilt launch, and not only did she entertain all our vulgar questions, she even let us touch the **famous crown**, which she produced from a smart little wood carrying case. "How much did it cost?" we rudely asked. "Oh, a lot," she said, a mischievous grin spreading across her sweet young face.

"Those aren't real diamonds, are they?" we persisted. "They're rhinestones," Shindle offered. "Seven thousand of them." We were about to ask Shindle if she thought trannies could pass at

the annual Miss America Beauty Pageant when two nervous handlers swept Shindle away.

Warhol-Schnabel soufflé

Too bad about that Warhol show at the Whitney in New York. Seems nobody who's anybody likes it. Both *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* panned it, as did half a dozen other publications, including our fave art rag, *Coagula*, whose supremely bitchy columnist Janet Preston wrote: "The Warhol show, unfortunately confined by Whit claustrophobe David Ross to one floor, proceeds topically through interlocking

rooms with displays devoted to divas, *Interview* magazine, commercial '50s Andy, drag queens, and all-purpose Eurotrash. There are plenty of vitrines full of invitations to Maxim's, Warhol's *Jesus* sneakers, and Andy's still **super-skanky clothes** (no wonder nobody fucked him).

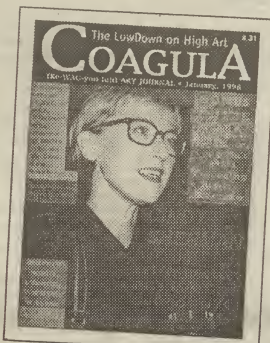
"Imagine if the curators had recreated the silver Factory, Studio 54's basement, or Area on

Andy Nite. For that kind of Surrealism, you'll have to go to the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, for which this Whitney show is a tasty, if insubstantial, hors d'oeuvre."

Preston also had a *bon mots* or two for Julian Schnabel's new show of

family pics at Manhattan's Pace Gallery: "Driveling gnome Julian Schnabel's conservative, Bourbon-style portraits of his family and friends appeared less embarrassing than usual," Preston wrote, "until one inspected Schnab's poorly drawn nude of his sixth grade son, *Vito*. That poor kid — what crap he must catch from his Greenwich Village schoolmates. In a fit of reverse Oedipalness, Schnabber gave his son a pencil neck, a pencil dick and face so geeky not even a mother could love it. You suck, Julian."

Oh, my. ▼



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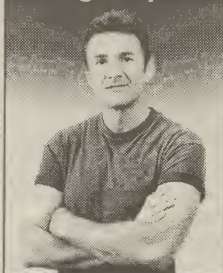
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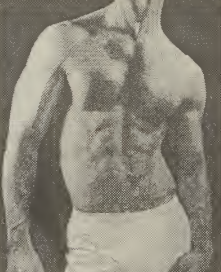
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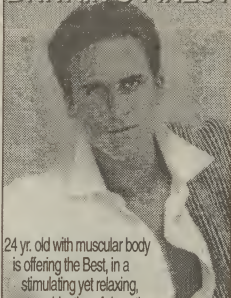
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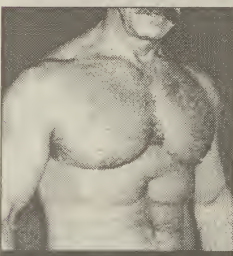


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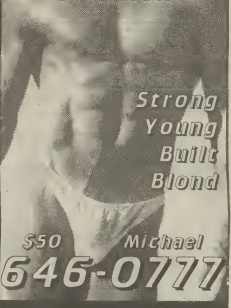
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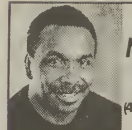


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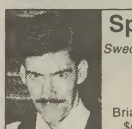
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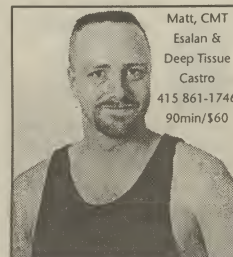
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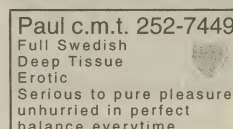
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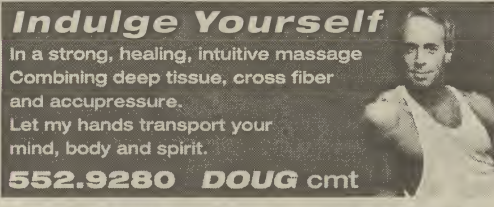
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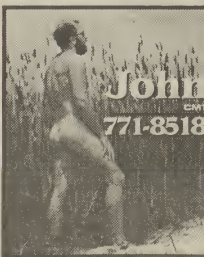
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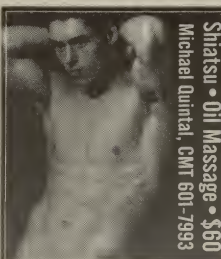
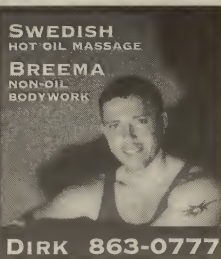
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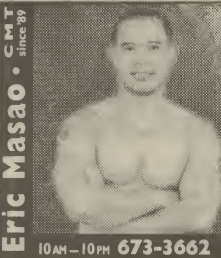
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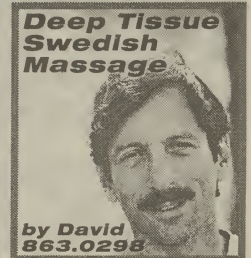
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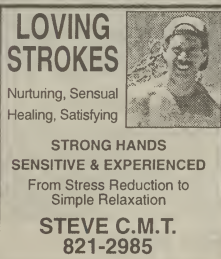
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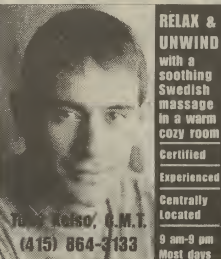
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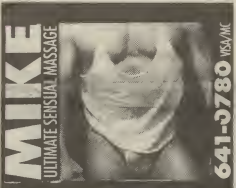
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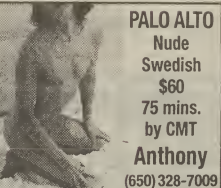
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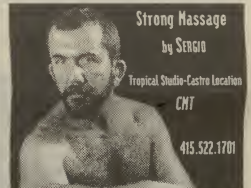
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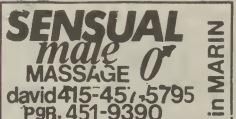
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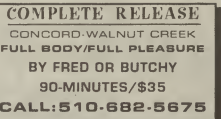
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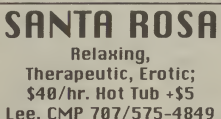
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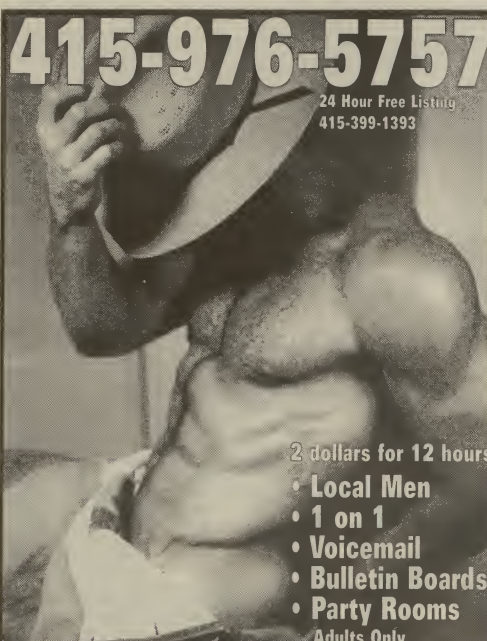
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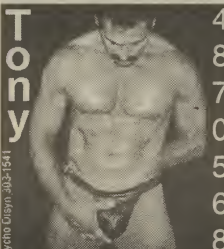


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MODELS/ESCORTS

Tony
4
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5
6
8




Psycho Guy 303-1541

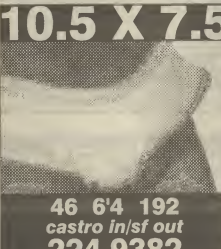
RICK
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SEXY BOY W/O ATTITUDE
RICK 415.551.0832



10.5 X 7.5
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CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR
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5'8", brown/brown, 140 lbs, smooth,
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Clean-cut Grad Student,
5'10", 155, Brown/Blue,
Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body
Very Cute, Very Versatile.
Call Jason 24 hrs 541-5002

SUPER SEXY STUD
5'11" brn/blu
160# thick 8"
Super friendly
338-4132 Jeff

Master Ken returns/slave training
bondage & spanking 24hrs431-8968

SOME LIKE IT HOT
Sexy, savvy, provocative, 19yo who
enjoys pleasing his men. 6'1, 165
lbs, swimmer's build, bl eyes, br
hair, 7' cut, very cute, great
personality. Justin pgr. 245-5310

2 CUTE YOUNG GUYS
1 blind 5'10", nice & thick/ 1 brn
6', beautiful ass, both 24 280-7851

Tall, lean, handsome Scorpio
28 yo w/8" hard+curved to fit
YOUR THROAT
Long endurance. 764-6627

NOT YET TAMED
Slightly wild motorcycle
boy, nudist, 26yo, hot body,
friendly, David 790-4903

NEEDED: ORAL EXPERT
For handsome hot jock, thick 9"
*outcalls*405-9669*Mike

Muscle Hunk
27yr 6' 190lbs 9" 538-9559

21yo, 5'8", 145#, 28w, 39c, smooth,
top, muscular

INNOCENT ASIAN
P415-313-9537 \$100 out, All Bay

Tall Asian boy 776-5169

Well hung black top out 273-1814

Tall handsome butch top
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Blond boy nice ass*friendly*hot
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HANDSOME REWARD
For orally inclined! 25yr 6' oral-
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Horny stud.Open to all fantasies.
Hung long&XXXthick.Sexy quality.
STRICTLY TOP
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SERVICE THIS!
Heavily muscled stud 6' 190# 8"
Huge pecs great biceps thick
Legs dominant/verbal Tony303-2895

Spiritually Tantric 273-1814
BLACK TOP

Hothouse film vet/ sling maker
GENIUS FIST
Handsome, hung 28 yo 764-6627

TOTALLY HOT GUY
26yo Tightbuild hung top
slender physique, sexy
boyishly handsome white boy
In/out Joey752-3844hm741-5329pg

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5'10"150, brn, brn, 7" uncut
smooth, lean with nice boyish
looks Pgr 679-8843

Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 29
with a hard, defined gymnast's body,
broad shoulders, great chest, popping
biceps, handsome face, 8 hard, sweet
inches offering hot, sensual, intimate
times with mutual respect and no at-
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Fresh from La Jolla
Holiday rates. Let's party 224-5384

Play rough? SM BD WS CBT&boots
HUNG FAT 9X7 SKINHEAD
Upzit?? Nzit? Barrett pg 313-7658

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Body worship, leather, uniforms, FF
Dildos-Hot muscle dad 6' 175 40's
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Attached to masc.Ger-Ital man
tanned swimmer's bid,br,6ft,
180#, 42ch,32w,10" c Out only Dan-
iel pg4155389587,vm7079396963

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39yo gwm prof. 45ch 33w 6'3" 200
Cleancut very hairy body gr8 butt
chest & legs. Unpretentious nice
egging guy. Very safe and sane.
Discrete. Mostly evenings & wknds.
Out only. Jack 415-202-1043 (Pgr)

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5815571/2pg414-0132InOut24Hrs

25yo College wrestler

STEELY HARD JOCK ASS

Xtra handsome musculstud 7390515

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175 6' 29 very Gdlik friendly
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Sexy blond jock with wshbrd abs &
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handsome \$80ln/\$100out
JASON 864-1190

Hot feet on hot stud 346-4966 Ken

SEXY LATIN

Hot 32yo hung 8" Paul 5107819738

22yo bl/br 5'8 135# smooth swmbld

NEW BOY IN TOWN

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Nice&studly \$80 out only 273-1814

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Hot YOUNG FOX

Fine Latin looks, sexy trade,
5'11", tan, athletic body, tattoos,
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51C handsome friendly sexy hung
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INTENSE EDGE PLAY

IN SERIOUS DUNGEON

Expert bondage, raunch, FF, rough
action. Limits pushed, beginners
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CATHETERS & KINK

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HOT TOUGH TOP

DOMINANT LEATHERMAN,
BONDAGE, SM, WS, CBT,
F/F, FETISH, ALL
FANTASIES. 38yo, 6'1",
200#, MARINE LOOKING,
BROWN HAIR, FLAT TOP,
BLUE EYES, MUSTACHE, 7"
UNCUT. BEGINNER TO ?
HAVE EQUIPEMENT AND
PLAYSPACE.

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HUGE 9"x7"

6' • 175# • Dark Blonde • Blue
Muscular • Very Goodlooking
Friendly • Versatile Top/Bottom
Avail Evenings & Weekends

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White-hot/32yo 6' 190/shaved head

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Masculine/affectionate/aggressive
Mature & heavy welcome. Out only.
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NEEDED:SERIOUS HEAD

for handsome,hot,jock,thick 9"

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WELL BUILT

Military type top jock with big
juicy tool.5'10",180lbs,handsome,
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Your fantasy, raunch,toilet, WS
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Raunchy hot top 35, 5'8, 180,

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7" Uncut thick meat.Muscular.Beefy
24 hrs. Mild to wild. Call now!

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Passionate, strong, & aggressive
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28, 6', 160, buzzd/blu, hung, big

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9X7 HORSEHUNG

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23, 6', 160, br/bl w/huge 9X6 tool
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Aggressive stud 8XX thick inches
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2 NINETEEN

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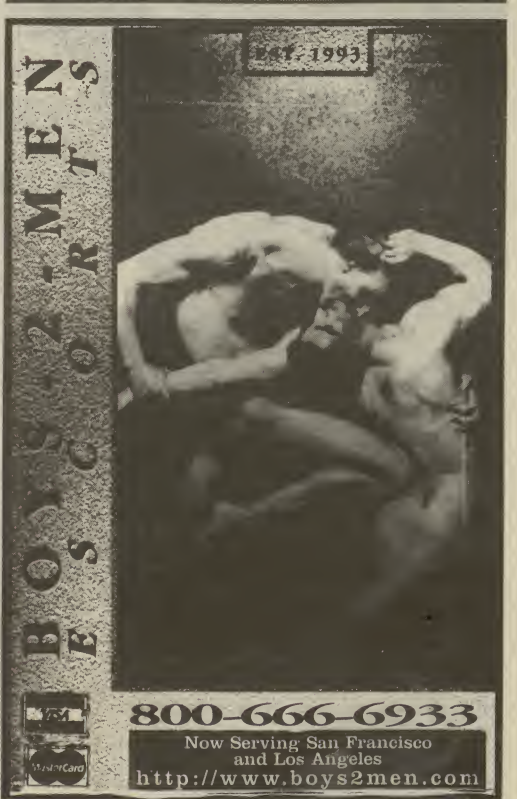
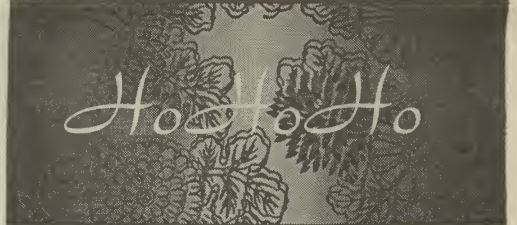
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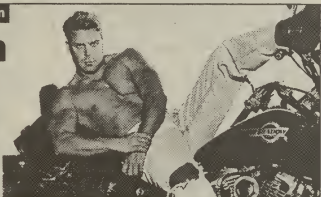
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Wants 2 force U2 your knees, 2 consume
my 8" cut of thick blk manhood. 5'8",
170#, 30yo, attract top muscle stud
C43/W29/A17/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs.
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WASP, good looks, ripped body

Expensive. Steve 615-2409

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Good lkr 38yo top, 6'1", 190 lbs.

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22yo with a thick forever hard tool of

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6'3", 185#, blond/blue, Top/versatile

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Beautiful yummy ass! 150 lbs. Black

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Rockhard globes of Buttl Hungry•

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Muscular, Handsome, Hair, Hung

6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly

Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Bld/Blu

Clean-cut Muscle Hunk

In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

ASIAN TOP

\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

Young, great staying power 792-8388

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shaved
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cut 6y6"
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6'4", 227LBS.
8" Cut-n-Thick



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ROUGH BLK TRADE

Wants 2 force U2 your knees, 2 consume
my 8" cut of thick blk manhood. 5'8",
170#, 30yo, attract top muscle stud
C43/W29/A17/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs.
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Harvard Rowing Team

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Handsome Man

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Enjoy your fantasy of owning a Slave

& toilet. All kink & ranch scenes to

Serve you sir. 346-4677

10 1/2 INCHES 10 1/2 INCHES

Come feel the real deal. Avbl 24hr

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Ready to service you long and deep.

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I also kick back for service.

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21 yr old boy, swimmer's build Chise-

led face, olive complexion, 6ft, De-

defined chest & legs, 8" thick uncut

Beautiful yummy ass! 150 lbs. Black

hair, brn eyes, Outcalls/Hotels Rex

731-4168 Serious, generous callers

only. Hourly/All night.

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Rockhard globes of Buttl Hungry•

• Hole• Hot, Sexy 28, 24Hr 328-5304

ALL AMERICAN MALE

Muscular, Handsome, Hair, Hung

6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly

Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Bld/Blu

Clean-cut Muscle Hunk

In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

ASIAN TOP

\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

Young, great staying power 792-8388

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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME. TALL &
BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.
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Extremely masculine,

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Need a helping hand? Slow+Easy+Fast

I'm great with beginners thru advanced.

Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill

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Dominant top, 38yo, 6'1", 195#, 7"

uncut, flat top, mustache, blue eyes, looks

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F/F, fantasy, most scenes. Beginner?

Have playpace equipment and toys Scott

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Passionate, College Jock 224-4849

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Bootmaster-32" Wesco with slave

Lthr slBjkt-Rbr-sleepsack-hoods

gags-suspension-whips-dungeon

48yo husky Lthr Biker-4152708290

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5'11"/Hairly 47c/16a/31w/185/hung/

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All Buttplay scenes

Italian stud, black hair brn eyes

6ft, swimmer's build, defined chest &

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8" uncut. Outcalls Pref/hotels. Gino

22, model looks Hourly/all night

Don't you want it now! 436-0402VM

HOT HANDSOME LATIN

New to city. 5'9", 160 pounds, 24

years old, black hair, brown eyes,

very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-

sure. pager (415) 207-1923

GREEK GOD

6', 150 lbs Thick jet-black hair

Long eyelashes, defined lean toned

chest, beautiful sexy yummy ass twin

mounds of pleasure! Affectionate,

passionate, exclusive, classy model

looks serious, generous, discriminat-

ing clients. Hourly and overnight

rates Hotels S/Based Nick 731-4168

TOP DOG

Like a handsome guy with a big

Tool and great bod? 207-5315

Size11Feet-ho\$40/60Bpr834-8170

MUSCULAR BLACK

BOTTOM DERRICK

120in/130 out 313-7127

GENUINE BLK STUD TOPS

handsome friendly and discreet.

Clean slim built with boyish looks &

well endowed. Out only

CEDRIC PGR-VM (510)639-6576

J/O strip show tall, lean, smooth, hot

hung. Hotjock!\$40/60Matt441-9198

HOT & SPICY THAI BOY

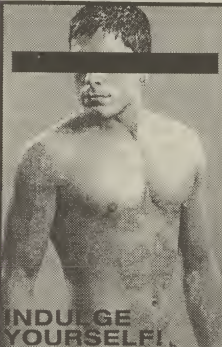
24yo will expand your universe

Attractive \$100 Out Watt 9957545

408-744-4537

PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

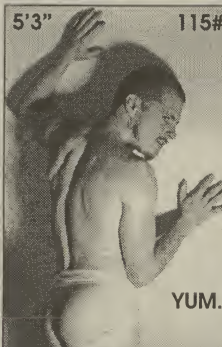


INDULGE YOURSELF!
IN/OUT CALLS
357.0705



Sexy Submissive
5'7"
135 lbs
24 yr

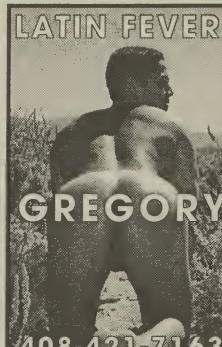
558-9351



5'3" 115#

YUM.

Nick 280-8049



LATIN FEVER!

GREGORY

408-421-7163
WWW.MACHOTE.COM



KEER
565-5545

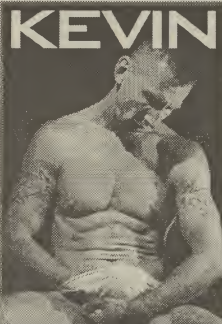
I dig big & mature guys.

As seen in Kink Videos & Honcho



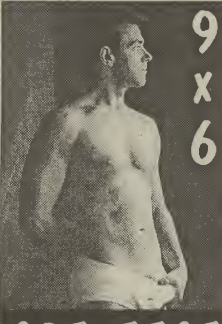
DENNIO

Very Handsome Italian
9"x6" • 27yo • 5'9"
415-790-1078 in/out



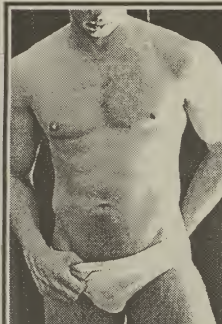
KEVIN

PGR-790-1545



9
x
6

807-7787



ANDRE 597-3613



ITALIAN

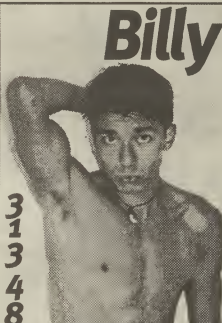
807-9822



PLAYGUY MODEL
FEB. 1996

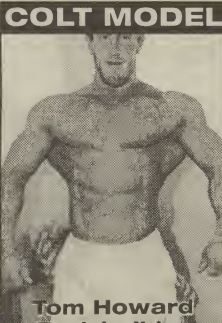
MASSAGE
ESCORT
STRIPPER
VIDEO

ROCKY
280-8002PGR
GFT. SMOOTH SWIMMER'S BUILD, 8" UNCUT



Billy

3
1
3
4
8
5
0



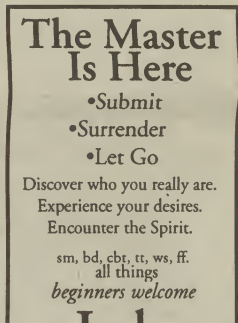
COLT MODEL

Tom Howard
Bodybuilder
9x6 Versatile
415-270-7896pgr



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180. STEVE. 615.2409



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- Surrender
- Let Go

Discover who you really are.
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Encounter the Spirit.

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all things
beginners welcome

Luke
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BOLD double price
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☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

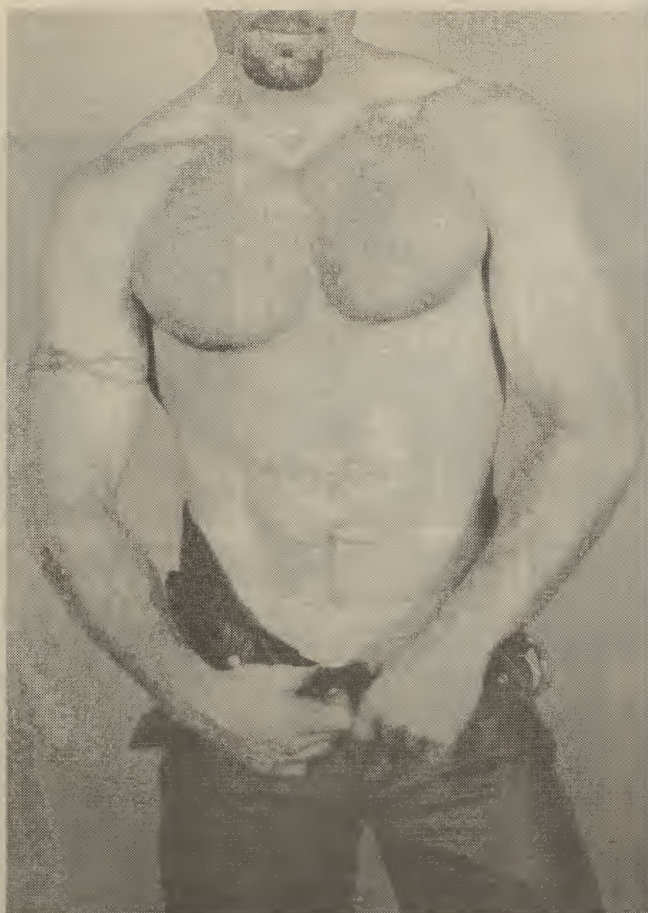
Classification

Amount Enclosed

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